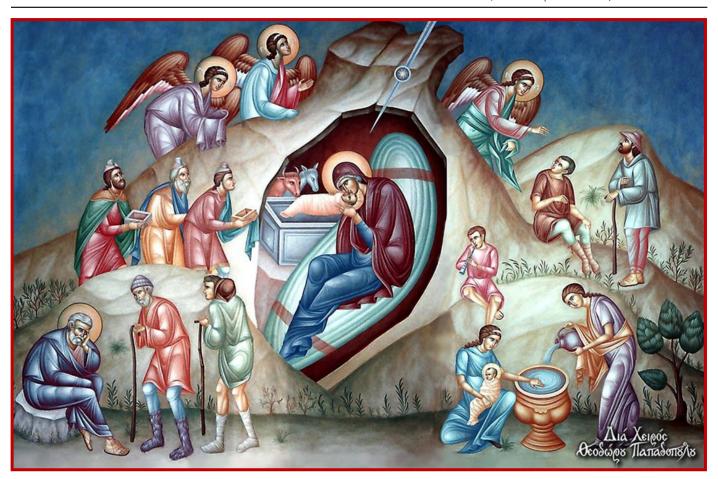


Vol. XXXVI, Issue VI | November/December 2020



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Giannis, Baptized and Chrismated Matthew, Baptized and Chrismated Zoe Rose, Baptized and Chrismated Kassiani, Baptized and Chrismated Anastasios, Baptized and Chrismated

Melina, Baptized and Chrismated

We welcome to the Church:

We pray for the servants of God, united in the Sacrament of Marriage: Angelo and Bailee

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

Robert Jovalis

PASTORAL MESSAGE

A Race To The Finish!

ast year on Thanksgiving morning 28,000 people gathered for the "Run to Feed the Hungry." It's amazing what can happen when people come together for a common cause, in this case raising funds for the less fortunate.

For me, the palpable energy of so many was great motivation to finish the race (confession: I've been walking the 5k course recently). Annunciation has been participating as "Team Nick Voresis" and we will continue this tradition this year, albeit "virtually."



But the race is just beginning on Thanksgiving morning. The real finish line is the celebration of the Nativity of the eternal Logos, the Son of the Virgin. It's no coincidence that the Church Fathers have arranged prior to Christmas the celebration of a plethora of Saints' feast days: Cosmas & Damianos, the Archangels, Nektarios, John Chrysostom, Barbara, Savas, Nicholas, Spyridon, Elefterios and others. But the focus of all these celebrations remains the great feast of our Lord's Nativity, when we will gather and rejoice in the words of the Christmas Kontakion:

"Today the Virgin gives birth to him who is above all being, and the earth offers a cave to him whom no one can approach. Angels with shepherds give glory, and magi journey with a star, for to us there has been born a little Child, God before the ages."

The earth, even in its broken (pandemic) condition, offers Him an abode. As we continue to face unprecedented emotional stress we need to open our hearts like never before to God's grace and peace. So let us journey (race!) to that cave where an innocent babe lies. Let us offer ourselves as that cave to receive Him in the Holy Eucharist. Let us rejoice with the angels and shepherds knowing He is Emanuel, "God is with us."

Christ is Born. Glorify Him! Χριστός Γεννάται. Δοξάσατε!

Fr. James Retelas *Presiding Priest*

Run to Feed the Hungry, Our Parish, and the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services

Help our Parish support the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services! More information on how YOU can help on page 24

Community Christmas Card

Donation: \$25 per line | Deadline: December 1, 2020 More information on page 5

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE FOR THE NATIVITY OF CHRIST

On this day the Virgin gives birth to the Super-essential. To the Unapproachable, earth is providing the cave. Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. Following a star the Magi are still proceeding.

He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God.

- Kontakion for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, December 25th

he Nativity fast is the second longest fast (after Great and Holy Lent) and begins on November 15th and concludes with the Divine Liturgy and the reception of the Holy Eucharist on the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (December 25th). But why do we fast before the Nativity of Christ? In order to prepare ourselves for the coming of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ! By increased prayer, fasting, and participation in the services and sacraments of our Church, we become an abode for the Christ-child, that He may live in our lives. Join us in fasting and prayer so that we may be ready to receive Christ into our lives!

*All feasts will begin with the Orthros at 8:30 am, with the Divine Liturgy following at approximately 9:30 am, unless otherwise noted

- St. Nektarios of Pentapolis and Aegina | November 9th
- St. John Chrysostom | November 13th
- St. Katherine the Great | November 25th

Great Vespers | Tuesday, November 24th at 6:00 pm

Orthros and Divine Liturgy | Wednesday, November 25th at 9:00 am

*Will be prayed and celebrated with our sister parish of St. Katherine in Elk Grove

- St. Andrew the Apostle | November 30th
- St. Barbara the Great Martyr | December 4th
- St. Spyridon the Wonderworker | December 12th
- St. Eleftherios, Bishop of Illyria | December 15th
- St. Dionysios of Zakynthos | December 17th

The Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ

Great Hours of Christmas | December 24th at 10:00 am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil the Great | December 24th at 6:00 pm Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ | December 25th at 8:30 am

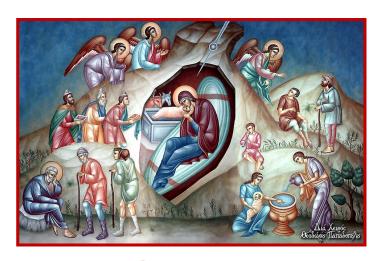
Χριστός Γεννάται! Δοξάσατε! | Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Apolytikion for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, Fourth Mode:

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord!

Ή Γέννησίς σου Χριστὲ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς τὸ τῆς γνώσεως ἐν αὐτῆ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς ἄστροις λατρεύοντες, ὑπὸ ἀστέρος ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν, τὸν Ἡλιον τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινώσκειν ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε δόξα σοι!





COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Dear Parishioners of the Annunciation,

As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, our hearts and thoughts renew what the incarnation of Christ means to us all... that God gave us His Only-begotten Son to save humankind. During this season, we express our love and appreciation through acts of giving to God in appreciation for all the gifts that He has given us.

We invite you to join our 2020 parish Christmas Card. Thank you very much.

Christ is Born! Glorify Him!

Fr. James Retelas, Fr. Timothy Robinson, Annunciation Parish Council, & Parish Office

Donation: \$25 per line | Deadline: December 1, 2020

Make payment by credit card or check to: **Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation** OR

Visit our parish website (AnnunciationSac.org) and click on "Christmas Card"

VIRTUAL BYZANTINE CHANT CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PRESENTED BY THE ST. JOHN OF DAMASCUS BYZANTINE CHOIR OF SACRAMENTO Sunday, December 20th at 6:00 pm | via our Live-Broadcast System





Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation | Sacramento, CA № www.AnnunciationSac.org

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

he Covid-19 virus has brought significant challenges to us, our community, and our nation. We have been reminded of human limitations and sinfulness as well as the sovereignty and goodness of God. As we near the end of the calendar year we must give thanks to God for all He has given us especially during these very difficult times.

After 2 months of celebrating church services outside in the Platea, struggling through heat and smoke, it was wonderful to be able to meet once again in the church on October 4 for Divine services, which would have been the weekend of our Greek Festival. We also had a very successful Parish Assembly, with social distancing and face coverings in tact. We were able to present the 2019 closing financials and present our current finances for 2020. The 2021 budget was presented and passed unanimously. Many thanks to Demetri Romas, PC Treasurer for presenting such a thorough explanation of our Parish finances.

As we enter the last couple months of 2020 we sincerely thank you for your contributions thus far and ask that you please remember to make your stewardship gift or increase your gift. We know not everyone is in a position to do so, but for those that can make an extra contribution we ask you prayerfully consider doing so. Without our annual Greek Festival profits and no Annunciation Hellenic Center rentals, we need your help.

It has been an honor and privilege to serve as Parish Council President these last two years and want to thank everyone who has supported me especially my colleagues on the Parish Council.

In Christ,

Michael Dariotis Jr. *Annunciation Parish Council President*

ANNUNCIATION FOOD-TO-GO SERIES

Saturday, November 14, 2020

1ST IN THE SERIES

Pastichio

(paw-steech-yo)









\$20 DINNER

Dinner For One Includes:

Pastichio - A Greek baked pasta dish with ground meat and spices, topped with béchamel sauce

Fasolakia - A medley of green beans & potatoes, stewed in olive oil, tomatoes and Greek spices

Spanakopita - Spinach pita

Greek Salad - Tomatoes, cucumber, onions, and Feta cheese

\$45 HALF-PAN A-LA-CARTE

A-La-Carte Item Includes

A frozen, half-pan of Pastichio, our baked pasta dish with ground meat and spices, topped with béchamel sauce.

Cooking instructions are included

Pan size is 10" x 12"

Serves 6-8 people

ORDER & PICK-UP INFORMATION

USE THE QR CODE

Use the camera on your smart phone to scan the QR below to go directly to our online ordering platform.



ORDER BY PHONE

Place your order with the Church Office by calling 916.443.2033, Ext 221

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Visit our website www.annunciationsac.org/food-to-go to order from our online ordering platform.

Date: Saturday, November 14, 2020

Pick-up Time: 2:00pm - 6:00pm

Pick-up Location: Annunciation Hellenic Center 616 Alhambra Boulevard between F Street & G Street (enter parking lot on 30th)

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Dear Annunciation Family,

s this year is coming to a close, I wanted to share a few thoughts...

The holiday season is almost upon us and as is customary, this is a time for reflection and giving thanks.

With the many setbacks within this year, it is still nice to reflect on the wonderful positives.

What a joy to be able to celebrate the Divine Liturgy in our church, after months of virtual and outdoor worship.

Thank you, Father James, Father Timothy, and Yianni for making the tremendous effort to keep the services going without the physical presence of parishioners.

Thank you for looking out for our spiritual well-being.

I appreciate Demetri, Gary, & Cliff for their commitments, as well. You all had challenges like each and every one of us, but were there for us trying to maintain normalcy.

To my fellow parish council members, I am so grateful I get to see each one of you in person after months of Zoom meetings.

I think it is important to note we were working constantly to meet the needs of our beloved Annunciation Church and family. I appreciate all your efforts.

Like this virus, these are novel times. How we react determines our future.

The one thing that is not novel is God's love for us. God is good and has and will continue to bless us.

As we end this year and look forward to 2021, I think of the following passage from 1 Corinthians 13:13, "And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."

God's love is constant even though the world around us is in constant flux.

Each and every one of us has to keep that love alive.

Please look at the virtual meetings for our youth ministries that Yianni has so tirelessly worked to implement and please have your children participate. It is so important for our youth to "reconnect" with one another and our faith after this "interruption."

Lastly, thank you to those that have made stewardship pledges and continue to do so.

I recognize the financial hardships so many have suffered.

Stewardship is key going forward for revival of our ministries and Annunciation's financial health. We all share this responsibility. I humbly thank each of you.

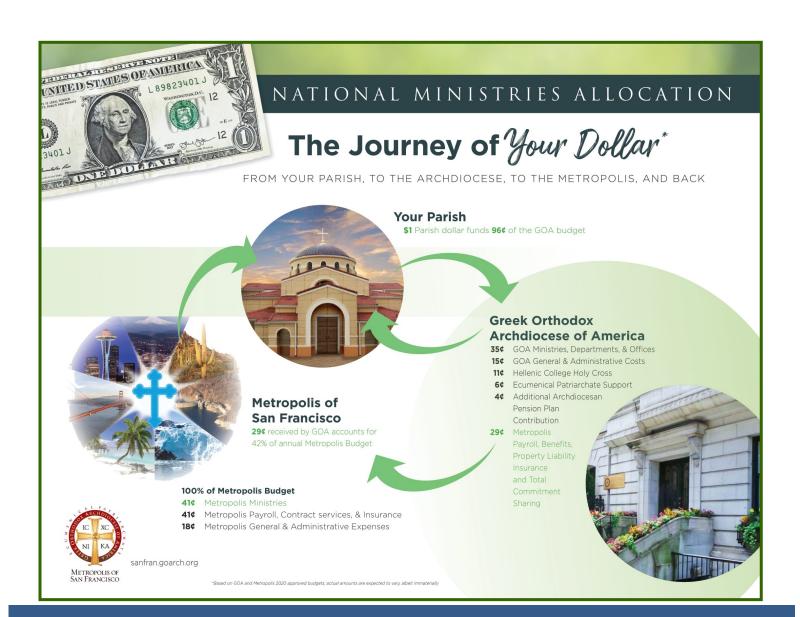
I wish you all a blessed holiday season.

In Christ's love,

Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Chair

OPERATING FUND

Income	1/1/20 - 9/30/20	2020 Budget YTD		
Pledges	\$452,068	\$405,000		
All Other Revenue	\$325,324	\$197,354		
Total Revenue	\$777,392	\$602,534		
Expenses				
Total Staff Exp.	\$432,771	\$419,397		
Program Services	\$7,959	\$16,733		
Other Oper. Exp.	\$238,709	\$260,078		
Archdiocese National Ministries	\$67,500	\$101,250		
Total Expense	\$746,939	\$797,458		
Balance as of 9/30/20	\$30,453			
2020 Pledges as of October 14, 2020				
Stewardship Budget	\$540,000			
Pledged to Date	\$467,403			
Total Amount Received	\$461,063			
Total Members Pledged	408			



AN UPDATE ON THE BUILD

parish for a

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

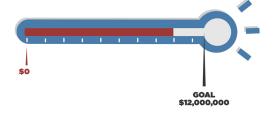
The Build Facts as of 10/15/2020:

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

Pledges Outstanding: \$460,083.50 Total Pledged: \$8,583,916.36

Total Given: \$8,123,832.86

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



If you have not given—now is the time!

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

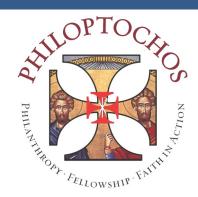
All we ask is 100% participation and your best gift.

Please help us get debt free.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Happy Autumn Everyone,

hiloptochos held its Board meeting on September 22. Many thanks to Yianni Magoulias, Pastoral Assistant, for all of his assistance in setting up and hosting the event virtually. It was an interesting and constructive meeting during which we appointed a five-member ad hoc committee to work on a new Procedures Manual. Before the meeting, many standing committee chairs and special events chairs submitted procedures related to their respective activities, and the ad hoc committee will now review and make recommendations for those procedures. The goal of



having the Procedures Manual—which will be published on the Philoptochos website—is for new volunteers to have general guidelines about the responsibilities required of committee chairs and the various tasks involved in organizing activities.

In other news, we updated the Philoptochos page on our Parish Website with information about how to join. We welcome all women of our Church over the age of 18 to be part of this great organization—25,000 strong across the United States! For those interested in becoming members, please click on "join our chapter" on the website and then fill out and submit the form.

In addition to making the membership form available online, we also added a link for donations to Philoptochos. We understand, however, that donating may be difficult for many parishioners since our Church community is going through a critical time with Covid-19. We encourage you to contribute first to our Church, and, if anyone is inclined to also contribute to Philoptochos, we would greatly appreciate your donation.

Because of Covid-19, Philoptochos will not be conducting its regular fall events. The good news, however, is that we will still have a holidays bake sale for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Many thanks go to Toula Zioga-Delis and Despina Demas for coordinating this.

You may contact Toula at (916) 745-5022 or toula10@yahoo.com and Despina at despinademas@outlook.com

if you would like to help or to put in an order. More information will follow in the near future.

In closing, I wish all of you the very best! May you be safe and strong. Take care of yourselves and each other and have faith that we have better times awaiting us.

Sincerely,

Helen Nickolson

Annunciation Philoptochos President

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

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





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



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

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

CENTENNIAL UPDATE



he coming year, 2021, will mark the 100th anniversary of our beloved Annunciation Church, which held its first liturgy on Christmas, 1921. We have multiple events planned to commemorate this landmark anniversary - the major activities being scheduled in the latter part of 2021 which, hopefully, we will be able to celebrate together.

KEY ACTIVITIES

CHURCH PICNIC will be held on Sunday, August 15, 2021, at McKinley Park, immediately following church services honoring the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. The picnic will follow the tradition of the many Annunciation picnics held over the past 100 years with great food, dancing, games, and togetherness!

GALA CELEBRATION DINNER and festivities honoring the 100th anniversary of Annunciation's first liturgy will be held at the Annunciation Hellenic Center on Saturday, December 4, 2021.

100TH ANNIVERSARY ALBUM - see details below.

In addition to these major activities, the following will also take place: 1) We will continue to post stories from our parishioners highlighting their family's connection to Annunciation over the years, titled *Looking towards our Centennial*. 2) Parish remembrances honoring the Centennial will be included in the weekly bulletins (when available) and 3) some fraternal and parochial groups will incorporate the Anniversary themes into their meetings and events.

THE ANNUNCIATION 100TH ANNIVERSARY ALBUM

Many Annunciation albums have been published over the years, which commemorated the 30th, 50th, 75th, and 90th anniversary milestones. To follow in the same tradition, we are publishing a 100th anniversary album honoring the Annunciation's history and its contributors. The album will highlight over a 100 years of our Orthodox heritage in Sacramento and the histories of the parochial organizations such as Sunday School, Philoptochos, Greek School and the Parish Council. We are very lucky to have the Fr. Demetrius Dogias Library to draw upon for these histories and pictures.

So far, Julie Mamalis, Gerri Magers, Terry Kastanis, Toni Chapralis, Liz Dokimos, Donna Wagner, Despina Demas, Dena Kuchulis, and Bill Triphon have volunteered to write portions of the church history and background of the parochial groups.

CENTENNIAL UPDATE

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

If you have photos and/stories or events you think should be included in the church history portion of the Anniversary Album, please drop them off at the church office (specifically to the Fr. Demetrius Dogias Library), or forward the materials directly to tkastanis@comcast.net.

As we have done in prior albums, each member/family or fraternal group will be able to purchase a full, half page or multiple pages to be included in the album. Because our album focuses on the over 100 years of Greek Orthodox history in Sacramento, we are asking that in addition to pictures contributors supply a historical note (family arrival in US or Sacramento, fond memories, Annunciation activities undertaken) as well.

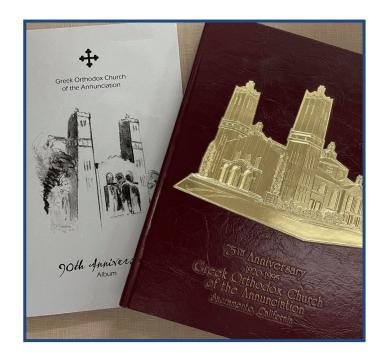
The family picture and histories are tentatively scheduled to be submitted during the Feb-April 2021 timeframe. Formats for submittal will be sent out in early 2021. Photographs can be from a family's personal collection, or a photo session can be scheduled by our designated church-family photographers (more info to follow).

The album will include pictures from the planned August 2021 Anniversary picnic and of the Gala Celebration Dinner. The Album will be released after the Gala Dinner.

We look forward to celebrating and honoring Annunciation's 100th Anniversary with you!

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





TREASURED GREEK FESTIVAL MEMORIES

А

s we introduce our 2020 Greek Festival Co-Chairs, Dan Eriksson and Stefanie Hionis, we take a look back at their favorite Festival memories and very long path of volunteering.

Stefanie launched her Festival career when she was 8-years-old by bussing tables in the pastry area at the Convention Center. Collecting the flitzania to be washed must have sparked something in her, because she continued to volunteer in the coffee and pastry booth for 15 years. She recalls back in 2006 when Vaso Mayer thrust her bag of brikia at her saying, "Okay you're in charge of making Greek Coffee now, I'm retired!" Stefanie accepted the challenge and



eventually convinced the Festival Board that coffee should have its own booth. She also helped get the popular Frappe back on the menu. The funny thing is that Stefanie is not a coffee drinker, but she's happy to make it for the rest of us.

Stefanie joined the Executive Board in 2016 primarily handling parking and printing along with running the Kafenion. She also helps prepare pastitsio, dolmades, Yiortopita and koulourakia...just once, as she caught one of the expert bakers secretly re-rolling all of her cookies. Stefanie handled it with laughter, admitting that rolling koulourakia was just not her thing. Applying the sesame seeds was a better fit.

Like many of us, her fondest Festival memories were as a teenager hanging out with her parea until security would kick them out. It was the best on those very loud, crowded Saturday nights at the Convention Center, mixing with lifelong church friends and inviting school friends to experience our culture, dancing and loukoumades. Stefanie also attended and volunteered at neighboring Greek Festivals. It was at the Oakland Festival where her friend (and future Koumbara) pushed her to talk to a fellow Cal Poly freshman named Anastasi. Now married, they continue to volunteer in the Kafenion and are blessed with twin little girls who most likely have Greek Coffee in their blood.

"When Anastasi and I took over the Kafenion, we were the youngest booth chairs by at least a decade," Stefanie said. "Now more of my generation have taken over booths and joined the Board, which is wonderful, but if we want our festival to continue we need more young people to show up to food prep, take on a booth and volunteer."

"I understand it's hard for working parents," she said. "Pre-kids it was super easy for me to participate, but for Irini and Fotini to enjoy festivals like I did as a kid, I make time to be there. We have too many very experienced volunteers, shout out to my 90+ year old aunts who still show up at every food prep day and all three days to sling pastries. They deserve their time to sit and enjoy the festival that their kids and grandkids are now putting on."



TREASURED GREEK FESTIVAL MEMORIES

Stefanie's best Festival memories are a reminder of why we work so hard to put on this event each year, keeping our faith and culture alive as we share it with the community and each other, hopefully passing it on to the next generation. Dan has a similar story as he began to volunteer back in 2005 while juggling two young children. He made it work, along with his wife Maria, by running the inflatable world known as "Kids Zone" where he could watch his little ones and all the other children.

In 2007, Dan joined the Festival Board and became Co-Chair in 2010. He has taken on very difficult, behind-the-scenes jobs that most of us run from – the set up and teardown of the Festival. With an expertise in architecture, Dan has spent countless hours developing the layout and finalizing logistics. These skills were critical in 2016 when the Festival moved to the church grounds and had to be completely re-imagined and mapped out.

"It is a huge undertaking and not possible without everyone pitching in," Dan said. "New friendships are formed and existing reinforced. I'm thrilled to be a part of the legacy of this event that started quite modestly some 57 years ago. My hope is that it will continue and evolve and that fresh ideas will keep this event exciting and relevant in our fast-changing world."

Dan has many fond Festival memories, his most treasured involves the surprise solo performed by his son Alexander. He was the only dancer to show up for the Greek Dance performance that day so he just hit the dance floor by himself. Amazed by his courage, the crowd cheered and threw money, which he proudly collected in his dance cap.



Along with the good times came the sleepless nights and challenges, like setting up the chapel at the Convention Center. Dan says installing the massive dome on top of the chapel took multiple people standing on tables, ladders and sometimes using a forklift. Thankfully, the cardboard tubes and wood boards never buckled over the years which would have caused the dome to crash to the ground. These days, Dan handles a far less risky job – setting fire to alcohol and cheese to amuse our guests with flames in the Saganaki Booth.

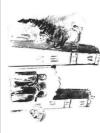
Dan and Stefanie will lead the 2020 Festival Board as we navigate challenging times, which caused us to postpone our Festival for the first time in 57 years. Assuming health conditions improve, we're busy planning for a take-out food event in early

February followed by our regular Greek Festival next October. As always, we welcome volunteers and look forward to making new memories with each and every one of you as we keep these traditions alive for many generations to come.

With Gratitude,

Koula Fotopoulos on behalf of the 2020 Greek Festival Board





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

November 2020

Tuesday) pm Virtual Youth oup Meetings eting	22 off the second of the secon
- 0 ω	16 A
	17 (11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101
	3is 18
Thursday	
Thursday 5 7 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy St. John Chrysostom	20 (2) 21 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

December 2020

Saturday	12 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: St. Spyridon the Wonderworker	19	26	Δοξάσατε! Glorify Him!
Friday 4	=	81 81	25 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy The Nativity of Christ Office Closed	Χριστός Γεννάται! Christ is Born! Δοξάσατε! Glorify Him!
Thursday	अप्रेटि १० स्युट्टि प्रिक्टि Annunciation Observer Articles Due	35 17 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	10:00 am Great Hours of the Nativity of Christ 6:00 pm Vesperal Liturgy for the Nativity of Christ Office Closed	31 Office Closed
Wednesday 2 न्युरि	% %	500 91 91 91 91 91 91 91 91 91 91 91 91 91	23 \$	30
Tuesday Community Christmas Card Forms Due	8 6:30 pm Philoptochos Meeting	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: 5t. Heftherics, Bishop of Illyria	25 حراب	29
Monday ेर्डिटे Fast Day	25 Control of the con	45 46 88.30 8.30 8.31.	21 خرائد 6:00 pm Parish Council Meeting	28
Sunday	6 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	4) 20 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy Virtual Sunday School Classes	27 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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

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



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

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

- Romans 8:28

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

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

1st – 2nd grades meet with Mrs. Chuchas

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

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

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

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

Christian Education in the Home

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

Help Us Help Others!

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

GREEK SCHOOL

he Greek School Program started strongly this academic year. In contrast to many Greek school programs across the country that have chosen to suspend lessons for the academic year or were faced with enrollments



dipping under 50% of their normal levels, the Annunciation program has maintained the majority of its students. Both the teachers and the families exemplify the positive qualities of the Annunciation parish and, together, we expect a successful academic year.

On Wednesday, September 2nd, Drs. Eleftheria Arapoglou and Katerina Lagos organized a book and materials pick-up parade. Eleftheria and Katerina set-up tables outside of the Hellenic Hall and distributed class materials to each family that drove through. Together, they were able to greet many of the students who were in their car and wish them a wonderful school year.

Currently, all of the classes are delivered online via Zoom, and teachers use the Google Classroom service to simplify sharing material, as well as creating, distributing, and grading assignments. While nothing will replace live instruction, all of the teachers have embraced online instruction and are participating in professional development seminars.



The Annunciation program also received an exemption to proctor the global *Ellinomatheia* exams this past month. Due to the outstanding Hall facilities, *Ellinomatheia* exams could be offered to 26 students who had enrolled. The Sacramento and Belmont programs were the only ones in California that were able to offer the *Ellinomatheia* exams. Rigorous standards of cleanliness and COVID guidelines were followed so all students could test in a safe environment. With the successful conclusion of the exams, our students are well on their way to achieving their California State Seal of Biliteracy!





ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

s we wait for news of a vaccine to stop this awful pandemic, take the time to think about the future of our senior ministry. It's time to step-up and take a leadership role by being a candidate for one of the four executive officers of our group. Call one of the following members of the nominations committee:



DENA KUCHULIS, 916-487-3301 GEORGIA ECONOME, 916-442-4125 MARY KONDOS, 916-457-2196 ELAINE PAVLATOS, 916-714-9836

Georgia Econome has brought to mind the terrible news lately of the fires in the Napa Valley. It was one of our wonderful ASL Excursions (October 21st, 2008) to the *Castello di Amoroso* in the Napa Valley that has been destroyed by the wild fires in the region. If you were on the trip, you'll remember the lovely castle on top of a hill that looked like a castle in Italy. We tasted award -winning wines in their private tasting room after which we enjoyed lunch at the renowned *Rutherford Grill* in the heart of the Napa Valley, sampled olive oil at the *St. Helena Olive Oil Company*, and went shopping at the *Oxbow Public Market* in downtown Napa. This is just one of the many trips ASL members have enjoyed over the years.

It's time to think about the future and use these memories to help strategize for next year and renew ASL as we enter our 101st year. Make a call and get involved by contacting one of the seniors listed above.

Terry Kastanis

Past ASL President

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

SAVE THESE DATES AND EVENTS!

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

Virtual Meeting on November 3rd at 6:00 pm Virtual Meeting on December 1st at 6:00 pm

GOYA (High School)

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

Young Adults (College)

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

Young Professionals (23-35 years old)

We are transitioning our "Wisdom & Wine" to Picnics in the Park following the Divine Liturgy! Please contact Yianni Magoulias for more information.

Orthodox Education

On Wednesday mornings, join Fr. Timothy for Studies in the Faith at 11:00 am! On Wednesday evenings, 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, Trivia Tuesdays, and weekly Ask Yianni segments!

"SEE" you soon!

DANCE SUPPORT GROUP & MINISTRY

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

Thank you and "see" you soon!

Annunciation Dance Support Group



LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

From Marysville to Sacramento By Edie Nicholau Delegans

am the youngest of the Nicholau family from Marysville CA. I am honored to have the assignment of sharing memories of growing up in a Greek Orthodox family in the small town located 45 miles north of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Sacramento. Some of my most treasured memories involve growing up in a home where Faith was first and foremost and everything in between. Our little Marysville did not have a Greek Orthodox Church. Therefore our geographical location presented certain worshiping challenges, but our unique circumstances only added to the wonder and meaning of it all. My sisters and I learned at an early age that celebrating the Divine Liturgy did not require cathedrals of stone and gold. Our liturgical life was formed from the inside out.

We had the great fortune of welcoming the Sacramento Annunciation priest one Saturday a month to perform the Divine Liturgy in a humble home that was turned into our AHEPA Hall which was located in a very modest part of town. Father Kermitsis was the first priest I remember gracing our Hall with the Divine Liturgy once a month.

I can confidently speak for my sisters when I say one person in particular played a monumental role in our familiarity and love of our Divine Liturgy. This beloved woman was one of my mother's dearest friends and my sister Dorre's Nouna. Kay Efstratis. Kay took it upon herself to build a choir, be the director, and teach us all the choir music and the Divine Liturgy responses. Often rehearing at her home or at the Hall. It matters not if you could sing or read music. She welcomed any and all with her customary open arms and loving smile. To this day I credit Kay Efstratis with my knowing many of our hymns by heart.

I grew up in such a rich community where people took a personal interest in their youth. For example my Sunday school teacher Diane Karnegas taught me how to pray. Pray with all the love and gratitude I could possibly ever muster every day. My other Sunday school teacher taught me (supporting my parent's beliefs) my faith and personal relationship with God would never leave me and be there for me in the best and worst of times. This beloved friend of mine was and still is Connie Keriotis. I still cherish the Bible she gave me as a young girl with an inscription inside that helped me through some challenging times long after my Sunday school classes with her were over. She had no idea the impact her kindness made on me during my college years. My mother was likewise a Sunday school teacher who took a personal interest in her students' lives as she included her Sunday school class with all of us for a field trip to Sacramento Annunciation church services. Imagine six Nicholau girls plus 4 to 5 more, piled into a station wagon... no seatbelts at that time... To get to the big church an hour away!

I learned about real community in this humble AHEPA Hall in Marysville. Much like a Hallmark movie the ladies would organize potluck baby showers and potluck wedding showers to support each other's daughters, granddaughters, nieces, sisters, etc., and even small scale festivals were planned and executed where a Greek dinner would be served and Greek pastries sold to our greater community at large. It was a huge hit in the area and many people ordered their pastries in advance of the big event. We even had our very own Christmas pageants with homemade costumes, many made by my mother, that were priceless. One year my mother was the director and all my mom can remember to this day about the endeavor was how the Efstratis boys were assigned the role of Kings and they were not happy! Typical boys, they wanted to be anywhere else!

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Imagine if you will, six girls, 10 years apart in age, one mother frantically trying to dress them in their Sunday best while the father patiently waited. That was the one Sunday per month venture to Sacramento. I would call "window!" "I called front seat!" "I call window coming home!" "Stop touching me!" "Mom, Edie's leg is on top of mine!" Singing songs all the way to Sacramento. We would sing along with gusto to the top 40 radio station to pass the time. Until a song came on where the words were inappropriate for six young ladies, and then in mid-phrase of our belting out the lyrics, not having any idea of their true meaning, dad would abruptly change the channel leaving us confused. Filing into the church. Mom in front as the mother goose, her six goslings following one by one rank and file, with the proud gander at the rear. We always went to the right and got as close to the front as possible. To this day, I am a "righty". My sister Terre has fond memories of the quarter we each received to give when the basket was passed. And Jamie, to this day catches herself standing as dad used to, arms crossed, in complete focus on the altar. Dad has vivid memories of some of the older members of the church often seated in the back of the church doing their stavros as we passed by... Most likely calculating the cost of six weddings, which might lie ahead for the father. Finally sitting in our pew, (we took up a whole one) being in complete and utter awe of a sound I could not quite ever get over. It mesmerized me and captivated my soul. The Sacramento choir! I was so charmed by Elaine Makris and Bill Bobolis. I wonder if subconsciously they were instrumental in my desire to try and sing myself. I do need to stress it was the choir as a whole that made such an indelible impression on this green little kid from Marysville. One Sunday after church mom decided to run into the local grocery store for a loaf of bread before heading home. She was constantly counting heads everywhere she went. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, OK let's go. She told us to wait in the car as she would only be a moment. This particular Sunday well into the afternoon, she was in the middle of making sandwiches back at home, when Jamie walked into the kitchen still in her Sunday clothes. Mom irritated, asked her, "why haven't you changed from your Sunday dress yet??" And Jaime said, "I just got here. You left me at the grocery store and I had to walk all the way home!!!!"

We established a great Nicholau family tradition. After Anastasi service every year we would meet at Dessi and Jim Chuchas' car and there we would tailgate with the best homemade home baked ham sandwiches on the planet. We could hardly wait for our tailgate party on either F Street or Alhambra Boulevard. And there, standing in the street sometimes freezing and always exhausted we enjoyed our breaking of the fast with such excitement and laughter and a "Xristos Anesti!" every few minutes or so.

One more parting thought... Father Angeles was such a huge part of my entire life. He was my spiritual guide and counselor for the whole of my life. And Father Dogias, I know for certain played an equally important role in the lives of my sisters who lived in Sacramento. How truly blessed my sisters and I have been to have had the God-fearing parents we had, the small-town community we had, and the spiritual fathers gifted us through our association with the Sacramento Greek Orthodox Annunciation Church!



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TEAM NICK VORESIS is back for an eighth year of participation in Sacramento's Run to Feed the Hungry. In 2018 and 2019 alone, TEAM NICK VORESIS was the second-highest fundraising team and generated over 20,000 meals for Sacramento families in need. Due to COVID-19, the hungry in our community need us now more than ever before.

Help TEAM NICK VORESIS make a difference!

ABOUT THIS YEAR'S VIRTUAL RUN TO FEED THE HUNGRY

WHAT

Virtual 10K Run & 5K run/walk to support Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

WHEN

The race will be virtual, so you can run or walk it anytime you want - including Thanksgiving morning

WHERE

Anywhere!

TEAM REGISTRATION

Youth (17 & under) - \$20 FREE with team code Adults (18 & older) - \$35 \$17.50 with team code

Please contact our team captain, Nicki Hansen for more details and team codes. (Nicki.D.Hansen@gmail.com)

Unable to participate in the Run to Feed the Hungry, but still want to help those in need in our community? Click <u>HERE!</u>



COMMUNITY CORNER

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

Choose your ad size (see rates below) tell us exactly what you want it to say (picture optional) and e-mail it to etheodor@annunciationsac.org

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

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







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Bi-Monthly Rev 2019

Ad Size	Monthly	<u>Annual</u>
Full Page	150.00	750.00
Half-Page	80.00	400.00
Quarter Page	45.00	200.00
Business Card	25.00	100.00
Back Page (Outside 1/2 page)	95.00	Not Available

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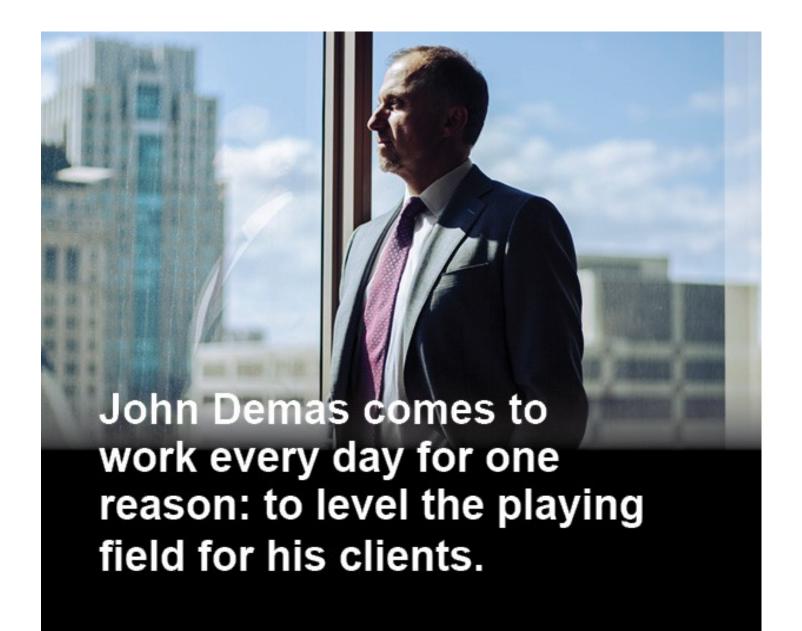




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