



THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

Vol. XXXVII, Issue III | May/June 2021



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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jdbobolis@beckman.com

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OFFICE HOURS

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

THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

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IN THIS ISSUE

May/June Liturgical Schedule.....	3
Pastoral Message.....	4-5
Parish Council.....	6-7
Philoptochos.....	8-9
Greek-To-Go.....	10
Hellenic Golf Classic.....	11-12
PC Board of Elections.....	13
Pledged Stewards List.....	14-15



COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome into the church:
Sophia Katisfolis

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

Damon Mamalis
Bill Bobolis

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Sunday Bulletin

Wednesdays by 4pm to frtimothy@annunciationsac.org

This Week at Annunciation Email

Wednesdays by 4pm to frtimothy@annunciationsac.org

Bi-Monthly Observer

June 10th to annunciationobserver@gmail.com

MAY/JUNE LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, MAY 21

Saints Constantine and Helen

THURSDAY, JUNE 10

The Ascension of Our Lord

SATURDAY, JUNE 19

Saturday of Souls

THURSDAY, JUNE 24

Nativity of St. John the Baptist

TUESDAY, JUNE 29

Saints Peter and Paul

Services begin at 8:30 am with Matins,
followed by the Divine Liturgy.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Returning to the Church and to the Holy Chalice

Christ is risen! Χριστός Ανέστη!

Thankfully, after the unprecedented closing of our Church last year, we have been able to gather in worship for Holy Week and Pascha. We rejoice in Christ's Resurrection and in what we hope will be the end of the pandemic. We know that many of you have been hesitant to attend Church. Yes, we have had to limit the number of people inside the sanctuary. We are taking every precaution for your safety. Some have also told us that they are hesitant to receive Holy Communion. This is a concern to us.

We live in a secular and religiously confused and confusing culture. Many Churches believe, to be blunt, in the real absence of Jesus Christ at the Holy Table. They typically share grape juice in little individual cups with bread, leavened or unleavened, as a "memorial" of Jesus' death. (How can you have a memorial for someone who is not dead?) Here bread and wine are symbols and NOT reality. This is not our faith. We have a common Orthodox Catholic Tradition that stretches back to the Apostolic Community and to the very words of the Lord who assures his followers that they need to "eat my flesh" and "drink my blood" in order to have real life (read John chapter 6). The Early Church simply affirmed the "real" presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine. Theologians tried to explain this in various ways, and we can assume that people doubted this difficult doctrine from time to time. (Interestingly, the only person we know who openly questioned the "real" presence was a certain Deacon Berengarius of Tours (France) in the 11th century. He was censured.) Then comes the "Reformation" of the 16th century in the West when nearly every doctrine of the Church was held up to scrutiny and doubt, and many

Christians began to regard the Eucharist in distinctly non-supernatural ways.

We affirm that Holy Communion is the very Body and Blood of the risen Lord under the forms of bread and wine. We believe that partaking of Communion is necessary for salvation. What about germs? Since the 9th century, our Church has served Holy Communion with a common spoon. (Remember that before this everyone drank from the same Chalice.) We are emerging from a pandemic when our world was threatened by a serious respiratory virus that killed many people. Can you catch something from the Holy Chalice? You must be aware that there was a lot of discussion about this among Priests and in our Synod here in America and in the Phanar at the beginning of the pandemic in 2020. In our Metropolis, our Metropolitan instructed us to instruct you to open your mouth wide to receive Communion and not touch the spoon. But this was a necessary accommodation to everyone's fear and the perceptions of unbelievers in civil authority. The truth remains that, no, you cannot get sick from taking Communion. Let me repeat: You cannot catch anything from receiving Communion. We are not saying that disease is not a reality. Viruses are real. You could certainly get COVID-19 from physical proximity to someone who has the virus! But we believe that the very Author of Life is present in the Holy Chalice. Remember this important fact: At the end of the Divine Liturgy, what happens to the unconsumed Communion? The Priests consume the Chalice! If Holy Communion could possibly convey disease, then Fr. James and I would absolutely be sick, probably very sick, all the time. We might be dead. We are getting older, but I want to assure you that we enjoy pretty good health, thank you very much. We are not afraid of Holy Communion! The only thing we fear is displeasing the Lord. If you want to read more about this,

PASTORAL MESSAGE

here is a link to an excellent short article on the spoon and hygiene by an Orthodox Priest:

http://www.orthodoxresearchinstitute.org/articles/liturgics/muksuris_holy_spoon.htm

The pandemic has affected our behaviors. Do you avoid getting close to people? Are you nervous about shaking hands with other people? God forbid that the “reset” of this outrageous pandemic should ultimately discourage us from returning to Church or should make us afraid of Holy Communion. Yes, get vaccinated. Yes, we are still asking you to wear a mask and maintain physical distancing. These things will gradually become unnecessary. Do not give way to fear. More than ever, we need to keep our faith in God. We need to gather in Church to worship, and we need the Holy Mysteries of Christ. God offers us life and not death. Does this help alleviate your fears? If you have any questions or you need some guidance or prayer or you need to come to Confession, please call or email Fr. James or myself. If you have questions about how to prepare for Holy Communion, we would be happy to talk to you.

Love in Christ,
Fr. Timothy



LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hello from PC

Much has happened since our last observer issue. Our pastoral assistant is now ordained as Fr. Efstratios Magoulas. Our Proistamenos, Fr. James Retelas, took part in this beautiful ceremony. Carol and I were lucky enough to witness this beautiful service of ordination as were a few others from our parish. Fr. Efstratios is the 4th generation in his family to join the royal priesthood. This legacy started in 1921. This date is BEFORE the Archdiocese of America was formed. Fr. Efstratios has touched many of us and helped our priests and church immensely. We thank him for all he has done at Annunciation Sacramento and wish him and Prez. Danae our best wishes in their new assignment.

We are well past lent and Holy Week by the time you read this. Lent is a time for reflection, renewal, and almsgiving. I am often astounded and reminded each year at how smart our church fathers were for giving us the timely gospel readings and lessons around this time.

During the 2nd Sunday of Lent (St. Gregory Palamas)- I was reminded of the differences of how we experience God. While we cannot know God in His essence (God in Himself), we can know Him in his energies (the work of God's grace in our lives, and who God is in relation to the creation and mankind).

During this pandemic I found a good article helping to explain this. We have all know of the Coronavirus. With the naked eye we cannot see it (we can't see its essence) but we have seen the sickness, death, lockdowns, and destruction from this and have experienced its energies. We are called at this time to get closer to God by prayer and fasting to experience his energies and become God Like. God continues to work in the world even though the world is sickened and weak and we are fallen. By His providence, He continues to be the Good Shepherd Who gently directs His flock towards the all-good and ever-green pasture of His Kingdom. Everything that God allows to happen will benefit us in a one way or another. The difficult thing is that we are not always in the know; that sometimes the reasons are non-understandable or clear to us. Coronavirus is still very much a problem, and we all must deal with some new "norms" to allow us to worship, to see each other, as well as carry on our daily routines. Pascha this year was much more "normal" than the past year in how we can worship. We encourage all to continue to come to church but please know that if you have symptoms of Covid, we ask you to stay home and watch services virtually. If you elect to come worship with us, please know that we still need everyone to wear masks; have their temperature taken at door on entering church and keep social distance seating inside of church. Please help us with these guidelines so all can worship while keeping everyone safe. We have a "quota" of the number we can allow inside the church—25% of our capacity. Once we reach that capacity, we will have overflow seating in the platea. Please respect this situation as we are complying with guidelines given to us. If you have a large family and want to be seated together, please come together to allow this. If we are at capacity and families come separately, we cannot allow others to join you inside due to capacity constraints. The parish council thanks you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Now some housekeeping chores:

- The parish council is in the middle of replacing all front doors to our church. If anyone has looked closely—the front doors are in great state of disrepair. This is a big project. The doors have been ordered and must be retrofitted with appropriate hardware, then installed. This will take a few more months to complete. Thank you to: Sophia Evergenis and Family for spearheading this and donating the actual doors.
- New Signage is finally finished on our campus and we have removed many of the taped-up signs
- Donor Plaques for those who have completed their pledge will be going up soon.
- Please follow our 100 the Anniversary and planned events (Picnic on 8/15/21 as well as Gala on 12/4/2021) in commemoration of this milestone in our parish.

Christ is Risen!

Dr. Nicholas Rotas

Parish Council President



PHILOPTOCHOS

Hello Everyone,

Spring has arrived, and, as I look out the window, I see a delicate tree with white blossoms. It is nature in its beauty, full of hope in its simplicity and promise of the fruit it will produce. Right next to it is a tree that does not appear well; it might survive, but it might not. I can't help but think of these two trees as analogous to what we have all been going through with Covid and to hope that the weaker will fight to survive and the stronger will willingly provide assistance. This imagery touches on what I believe are the core beliefs and values that inspire Philoptochos: to help and assist those in need in whatever way possible. And, despite Covid, Philoptochos members have endeavored to accomplish this. I thank them for their hard work and our Parish community for their backing!

A brief update of Philoptochos activities during the last two months includes 1) supporting Deacon Efstratios Magoulias with thoughts and gifts on his clerical journey; 2) creating a new email address--Philoptochos@annunciationsac.org --to allow members and non-members to easily contact Philoptochos with questions, comments, or concerns; 3) completing a local Procedures Manual with guidelines for officers and events; and, 4) baking for Easter to fundraise for the numerous groups and activities that Philoptochos helps financially. Thanks everyone for your help! Some of you are pictured below.



I especially want to recognize the special effort and leadership provided by Toula Delis and Despina Demas in the baking that Philoptochos has done this year. I also want to recognize Faye Vallas for ensuring that individuals who cannot be very active receive an Easter holiday basket.

We are looking forward to the Board election in May, which will be run by Katina Chapralis Bostanzoglou with the help of Elena Virgadamo and Anastasia Vourakis Stroud. Thank you, Katina, Elena, and Anastasia, for taking on this important task! If you are a Philoptochos member, please consider running for the Board. If you are not yet a member, we welcome you to join us and to buy membership for a friend or family member. It is only \$35.

We are hoping to have a Kids 'n' Cancer activity this May since we couldn't have anything in February, but if it turns out that we cannot, we will do our best for next year. For many years, Elaine Wright has spearheaded the activities during the entire month of February, and I thank her for her enthusiasm and efforts. The Philoptochos Calendar has been submitted for next year in order to secure dates, times, and locations. This, of course, will be reviewed by the next president and board.

PHILOPTOCHOS

In closing, this summarizes the Philoptochos financial commitments which total approximately \$39,000:

CHAPTER COMMITMENTS

Vasilopita Luncheon
Palm Sunday
Lenten Retreat
Benevolent fund
Xmas Around the World
Social Services
Home Bound (Christmas and Easter)
School Supply Donation—John Sloat
and other schools -- (\$1500)
Seminary students
Food Festival Program Ad

LOCAL CHARITIES

Bishop Gallegos Maternity Home
Loaves & Fishes
Mustard Seed
Salvation Army
Wellspring Women
WIND
Women's Empowerment
Food Bank

DIOCESE COMMITMENTS

Emergency Fund
Kids 'n' Cancer
St. Nicholas Ranch (upkeep)
Student Aid Endowment Fund
Light the Path
\$15 of the Chapter membership fee

NATIONAL COMMITMENTS

St. Basil Academy--January/Vasilopita
Social Services/Cancer Fund
Autism Fund
St. Photios Shrine
Orthodox Christian Mission
Hellenic College/Holy Cross
Sisterhood to Benefit Saint Basil
IOCC
Founder's fund
Support a Mission Priest
Orthodox Christian Fellowship
Hellenic College/Scholarship Program
Retired Clergy Benevolence Fund
Emergency Fund
Ecumenical Patriarchate
Presbyteres Benevolent Fund
UNICEF
General Medical Fund
\$15 of the Chapter membership fee

I wish all of you well and thank you for all your help, dedication, donations, and kind words. Καλό Πάσχα!
May you have a wonderful Easter!

Sincerely,
Helen Nickolson, Philoptochos President





SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL PRESENTS

ANNUNCIATION GREEK-TO-GO SERIES

Saturday May 22, 2021

6TH
IN THE
SERIES

Souvlakia (sue-vlok-yia)



\$25 DINNER

Dinner For One Includes:

- 2 Pork Souvlakia - The original fast food! Delicious grilled pork, seasoned to perfection with lemon juice, olive oil, and oregano.
- Fasolakia - Green beans, carrots, and potatoes simmered in tomato sauce, olive oil, garlic and herbs.
- Pilafi - Rice done the Greek way; cooked with lemon juice, butter, and chicken broth.
- Greek Salad - Tomatoes, cucumbers, Kalamata olives, Feta cheese.
- Gemista Cookies - The Greek answer to Oreos. But better. Assorted flavors - 1 Package

\$15 MEZE BOX

Assorted Appetizers Include:

- 3 Beef Dolmades
- Kalamata Olives
- Pita
- Feta Cheese
- Stuffed Peppers
- Tzatziki

Beverages and limited seating will be available.

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 www.SacramentoGreekFestival/greek-to-go to order from our online ordering platform.

Date: Saturday May 22, 2021

Pick-up Time: 1:00pm - 5:00pm

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

To keep you and our community safe, all food is TO-GO only. Face coverings are required when picking up your order.

HELLENIC GOLF CLASSIC

The Golf Committee has been hard at work planning another fun day out at the Lincoln Hills golf course on a new day, with a new price!

To commemorate the 100-year anniversary of our Annunciation Church, the entry fee for the 2021 Hellenic Classic will be \$100/golfer. This includes food, drinks and extra special touches you've come to enjoy throughout the years, with some surprises along the way.

We have booked the course for a beautiful Monday morning on June 7th – what better way to start off the week?

As always, we need your help for this major Church fundraiser to be as successful as possible. Here are some easy ways to get involved:

- Spread the word! Share the event with your family, friends, co-workers, and on social media. See more details at www.AnnunciationSac.org/Golf
- Come and golf! Grab 3 of your friends and put together a foursome. To register, please visit: <https://annunciationsac.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/156/responses/new>
- Sign up to be a sponsor! We offer sponsorship opportunities for all levels of commitment.
- The Silent Auction and Raffle are large contributors to our event. We are asking for any donations of gift cards, certificates or any other contributions to make this successful. Please contact Pat Kallergis at (916) 812-3649 or Vivian Vail at (916) 806-7777.

We look forward to seeing you on June 7th at Lincoln Hills!

HELLENIC GOLF CLASSIC



MONDAY, JUNE 7, 2021
LINCOLN HILLS GOLF COURSE
\$100 PER GOLFER

SPECIAL PRICE IN HONOR
OF THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION
includes: green fees, cart, driving range, food, and lots of fun

To register, learn more, or support
this year's classic, please contact:

Vivian Vail
(916) 806-7777



Pat Kallergis
(916) 812-3649

www.AnnunciationSac.org/Golf

All proceeds benefit the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation,
The Make-A-Wish Foundation (Northeastern & Central California and Northern Nevada), and other local charities

BOARD OF ELECTIONS

The Board of Elections is seeking candidates to serve on the 2022 Annunciation Parish Council.

If you are interested or would like to nominate someone please contact one of us on the Board of Elections:

Effie Crush
effiecrush@yahoo.com

Despina Demas
demasdespina@outlook.com

Tim Delis
timdelis@yahoo.com

Dan Eriksson
eriksson@surewest.net

PLEGDED STEWARDS 2021

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

Peter Anagnoston
Geoffrey & Antonia Antipa
Milton & Panorea Apostolidis
Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas
Nicholas & Nikki Avdis
Andreas & Audrey Bazos
George & Irene Bezzerides
Susan Bitar
David & Anastasia Bonaccorso
Denny Boom
Greg & Vicki Booros
John & Katina Bostanzoglou
Polihronis & Vicky Bourdaniotis
Marie Bravou
Anna Brusco
Katherine Buttacavoli
Andonia Cakouros
Dallas & Angela Calmes
Peter & Fotine Casheros
Tim & Antonia Chapralis
Jack Chesson
Peter & Maria Christi
John & Julie Christie
Kristen & Adoni Christie
John & Annette Christopoulos
Bettina & Grigorios Chrysofakis
James & Toula Clubb
Peter & Samantha Cononelos
Carol Crisp
Timothy & Effie Crush
George & Christine Dariotis
Michael Dariotis
Irene Darras
Fany Darzins
Irene DeKellis
Edie Delegan
Lou & Maria Deville
Costa & Victoria Dimitriades
Michael & Forest Dimitropoulos
Dino & Danielle Disalvo
Nicholas & Laura Docous
Kathy Dokimos
Katherine Dole
Demosthenis & Evangelia
Douveas Marina Downing
James & Patricia Duvaras
Kiki Econome
Kaylee Efstathiou
Peter & Anastasia Efstathiou
John & Stella Eliopoulos

Bill Evrigenis
Leah Evrigenis
Sophia Evrigenis
Michael & Elena Fazio
Vasiliki & Erik Fkiaras-Magnuson
Christos Fotopoulos
Panagiotis Fotopoulos
Panayiotis Fotopoulos
Peter & Koula Fotopoulos
Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos
Antonia Fotos
Demetre & Christine Fotos
Kyriako & Brenda Fotos
Ruseta Fotos
Christina & Robert Freeworth
Kelly Garrett
Maria Gassoumis
Andrew & Teresa Gates
Constantin & Micki Genigeorgis
Alexis Scandalis Genung
Joann Georgallis
Perry Georgallis
John & Debbie George
Chris & Angie Georgoulas
Helen Gianakakis
Angela Gianulias
Louis & Georgette Grivetti
Suanna Gurovich
John & Edith Hagelis
George Hagios
Lynn Hall
Elena Hankard
RJ & Nicki Hansen
Demetre & Dimitra Haralambakis
Dannan & Lisa Harr
Richard & Kim Hauch
Steve & Bia Hayes
Tim & Elene Hayes
William Hess
Nikko Higdon
Mary Hionis
Julian B. & Diane Holt
Dino & Margarita Jakovas
Kiki Jouganatos
Chris Jovalis
James & Robin Kafouros
Phyllis Marie Kafouros
Panagiotis & Katerina Kakkavas
Periklis & Marilena Kalfountzos
Dennis & Robin Kamilos

Nick & Andreanna Kamilos
Christopher & Kristen Kane
Gus & Ana Kapandritis
George Kastanis
Terry Kastanis
Emorfia Katsimbras
Andreas & Evelyn Kazanis
Giorgos & Jenna Kazanis
Anthony & Gail Kentroti
Connie Keriotis
Denise Kincaid
Despina Kiriakes
Steven & Lindsey Kivetos
Pete & Maria Kokkinis
Alex & Kiriaki Kokologiannakis
Mary Kondos
Lucas & Stella Kontes
Nick & Bernadette Kontos
George Koufasimis
George Koumis
George & Rula Kouretas
Constantino & Dena Kuchulis
Loula Kufasimes
Nicholas & Michele Kufasimes
John & Mary Kyriakides
J.J. LaBritt
Jonny LaBritt
Stephen & Anna LaBritt
Henry & Maria Lafayette
Frances Lambrose
Dean & Diane Langley
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Geraldine Magers
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Stanley Makris
Julie Mamalis
Exaveria (Rula) Manikas
Anne Manolakas
Sam & Kerry Manolakas
Timothy & Annette Manolis
Athanasios Manolopoulos

PLEGDED STEWARDS 2021

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Antigoni Marcos
Katherine Marefos
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Steve & Katherine Margaris
Nellie Margarite
Dennis Marks
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Pamela Middleton
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Jack & Marque Molodanof
Cliff & Shari Moody
Karen Nelson
George & Gaye Nicholau
Helen & Lawrence Nickolson-Michel
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Tommy & Alayna Panages
Nick & Kontilo Pandleleon
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Yianni Pantis
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Mary A. Pappas
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Lucky & Dina Poulos
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Thomas & Carol Ann Robinson
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Dimitri Vouros
Douglas & Donna Wagner
Richard & Valentina Watts
Maria Kostidou Workman
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And our stewards who wish
to remain anonymous

Pledged Families: 237



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7727 Laguna Blvd. Elk Grove, CA (916) 478-2400	51 N. San Pedro St. San Jose, CA (408) 288-7488	1610 East Shaw Ave. Fresno, CA (559) 222-1066
11896 Foothill Blvd. Rancho Cucamonga, CA (909) 980-3585	111 N. Twin Oaks Valley Rd. San Marcos, CA (760) 471-0155	
2107 Broadway St. Redwood City, CA (650) 216-9713	3155 W. Chandler Blvd. Chandler, AZ (480) 786-5705	1418 N. Central Ave. Phoenix, AZ (602) 257-0380

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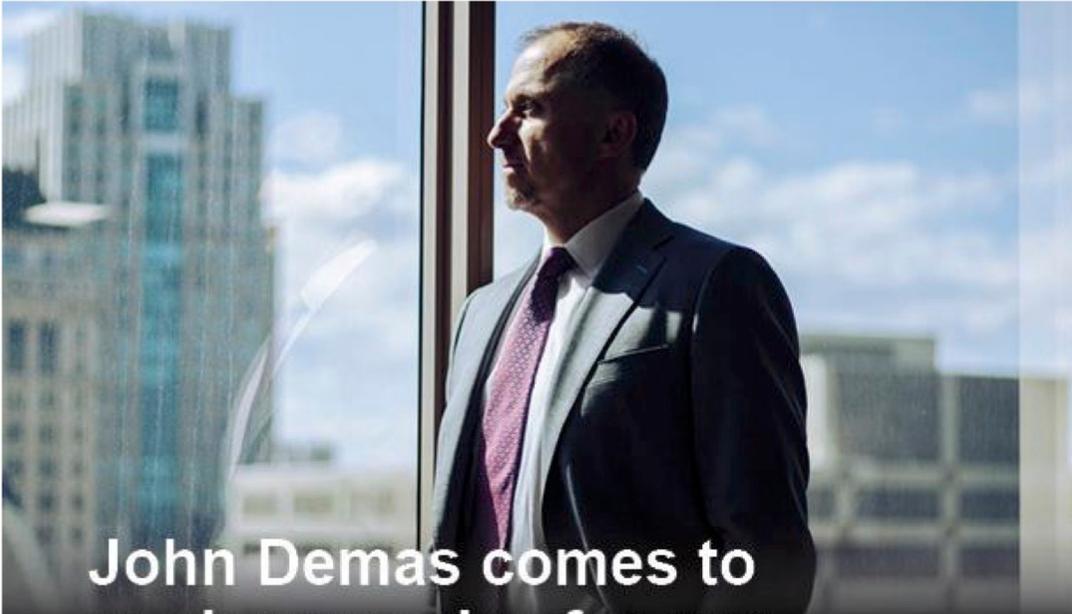
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Lewie Donhost
Funeral Director



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