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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome into the Church:

Konstantinos, Baptized and Chrismated Maria, Baptized and Chrismated Apostolos, Baptized and Chrismated

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

Dimitris Mataras John G. Dariotis Constantinos A. Karres

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Great Lent, Yesterday and Today

Dear Faithful of Annunciation:

et us recall with some angst our Lenten journey one year ago. Because of the pandemic we were essentially "ostracized" from our church and could only worship virtually. I never adjusted and never will to this foreign expression of our faith. We belong together simply because "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14)



We are hopeful we can gather "in person" this year, so let us prepare to enter the Great Fast on March 15 with eager anticipation. Metaphorically speaking, last year we were confined to the

narthex of the church, where we step from the outside world and prepare to enter the nave, that sacred space where we gather to worship as the Body of Christ and receive the Holy Eucharist. This year, by God's grace, we will enter the nave and move toward the sanctuary to fully experience the great mystery of our faith, the death and resurrection of the Son of God. As we continue to confront the physical health challenges posed by the pandemic, Great Lent offers us yet again a unique opportunity to grow spiritually, to renew our commitment to our core mission posted on the marquis at the corner Alhambra Blvd. and F Street:

"to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:19)

Beloved parishioners of Annunciation, of all the ministries and programs we engage in, there is nothing more important than knowing the love of Christ. Despite the anticipated continuing restriction on social gatherings such as coffee hour, we look forward to being able to gather for worship and prayer during Lent not only on Sundays, but also on Monday, Wednesday and Friday evenings.

Great Lent is our "tithe of the year," a time of renewal through prayer, fasting, and charitable works. It is a time of repentance, a real renewal of our minds, hearts and deeds as we worship Christ and honor His teachings. It is the time, most of all, of our return to the great commandments of loving God and our neighbors. In our tradition, Great Lent is not a season of morbid gloominess. Rather, it is a gift from God of "joyful sorrow" ($\chi\alpha\rho\mu$ o $\lambda\nu\eta$) and purification. We are called to "anoint our faces" and to "cleanse our bodies as we cleanse our souls." The very first hymns of the very first service of Great Lent set the proper tone of the season:

"Let us begin the Lenten time with delight, let us fast from passions as we fast from food, taking pleasure in the good works of the Spirit, that we may be granted to see the holy passion of Christ our God and his holy Pascha, spiritually rejoicing. Your grace has arisen upon us, O Lord, the illumination of our souls has shown forth; behold, now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the time of repentance"

(Vespers hymns)

It is our repentance, turning back to Him, that God desires, not our remorse. We sorrow for our sins, but with the assurance of God's mercy. Our Lenten discipline challenges us to subdue the passions, but we do so in the joy of our resurrection into life everlasting. May you and your families experience the fullness of this joy this Great Lent and always.

With love in Christ our God,

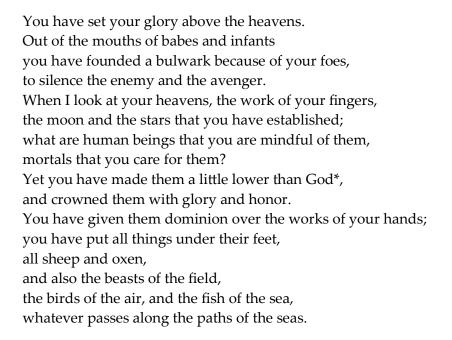
Fr. James Retelas

PASTORAL MESSAGE

Read a Psalm and Let it Speak to You!

o you read the Psalms? (Do you read poetry?) I have been teaching a class on-line for the past month on the Psalms, and I have been reminded of the power of the Psalter as I have prepared for these lessons and as we have met together. On Wednesday, February 17th, we studied Psalm 8:

O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!



O LORD, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth! (New Revised Standard Version)

[*The Greek Septuagint renders the Hebrew *Elohim* "angels".]

This is certainly one of the finest Psalms and one of the best lyric poems ever composed. Here are words that speak to the mind and the heart. The author, perhaps David, writes a brief meditation on the whole Creation. He looks around to marvel at the natural world. He also reflects on the great cosmic, mythic account of Genesis and God's "good" creation and the subsequent troubled history of humanity, the apex of that Creation and God's representative in this world. God is truly above and beyond everything. He speaks and His words become worlds. He is the Beginning and End of the universe. But He also cares for us! He has plans for us. The New Testament mines the Psalms extensively, and this Psalm is quoted in four passages, including Hebrews 2 where the author quotes the Psalm and explains how the Lord Jesus "fulfills" this Scripture as the New Man, the goal and culmination of humanity, Who was made a little lower than the angels but Who is now crowned with glory and honor!



PASTORAL MESSAGE

The Psalter is a hymnal, a prayer book, a book of lessons in complaint and faith, in praise and thanksgiving. The Psalter functions as a significant part of our services. The Psalms have provided for us the language of worship. Monastic communities read through the entire Psalter once a week in daily services. They read through the Psalter twice a week during Great Lent! With good reason! *Please allow me to invite you to read the Psalms during this coming Lent.* A few a day. Whatever you can. Read out loud. Let the words wash over you. Allow the Holy Spirit to speak to you through the Psalms of God's power, justice, and love, the pain and frustrations of life, and the power of faith. As we read, may these poems help us to grieve, lament, rejoice, repent, and give thanks to God for all things. And may we also hear in the Psalms the words of our Lord Jesus Christ and see His portrait.

Asking for your forgiveness,

Fr. Timothy Robinson

Fr. Timothy Robinson Associate Priest

FASTING FOR GREAT AND HOLY LENT

he guiding rules of the Church Fathers - Fast according to your strength and never eat to the point of feeling full but rise from the table ready for prayer. Fasting is never required when there are health issues that require the eating of certain foods. Parents use discernment to decide at what age to begin a child fasting from foods. Along with abstaining from certain foods, teach the importance of fasting from behaviors not pleasing to God.

Foods allowed during Lent (this is considered Strict Fast):

A vegetarian diet including but not limited to bread, grains, vegetables, soup, tofu, fruits, nuts, beans, shellfish, octopus, squid, juice, coffee, tea or water.

Foods not allowed during Great Lent:

All meat, poultry, fish, olive oil (vegetable oil is allowed), wine, dairy products, cheese, milk, butter, eggs. Wine & oil are allowed on weekends. Fish, wine & oil are allowed on March 25 (Feast of the Annunciation) and Palm Sunday, April 25.

Days on which the number of meals is limited:

It is customary to limit the number of strict fast meals on Clean Monday (the first day of Lent, March 15), and on any day that you are preparing to receive Communion at a Presanctified liturgy.

Preparing for Presanctified Liturgies in the late afternoon:

There are three ways to prepare depending upon your personal abilities.

- If you are able keep complete fast the entire day and have a meal after the Liturgy
- Or have a fast worthy breakfast, no lunch followed by a meal after the Liturgy
- Or have a fast worthy breakfast followed by a light lunch and a meal after the Liturgy.

GREAT AND HOLY LENT

n preparation for Great Lent, we remember those who have departed this life with the Divine Liturgy and memorial prayers – called Saturday of the Souls. Please bring a list of the names of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord and Koliva if you wish. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and the most extreme precautions, Koliva will not be mixed, but returned to you after it has been blessed.

The Saturdays of the Soul begin with Orthros at 8:30 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy, and concluding with the memorial prayers.

March 6th | 1st Saturday of the Souls

March 13th | 2nd Saturday of the Souls

March 20th | 3rd Saturday of the Souls and the Commemoration of the Miracle of Koliva by St. Theodore of Tyro

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

With this mentality we should approach fasting and Great Lent!

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

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

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

Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos
Wednesday, March 24th – 7:00 pm
Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos
Thursday, March 25th – 8:30 am Orthros, 9:30 am Divine Liturgy

HOLY WEEK AND PASCHA

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

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

- St. Gregory of Nyssa (384)

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

Saturday of Lazarus | April 24th

Orthros and Divine Liturgy – 8:30 am | 9:30 am

Great Vespers for Palm Sunday — 6:00 pm

Palm Sunday | April 25th

Orthros and Divine Liturgy – 8:30 am | 9:30 am

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

Holy Monday | April 26th

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

Holy Tuesday | April 27th

Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts -8:30 am

Matins of Holy Wednesday: Service of the Bridegroom & Hymn of Kassiane - 7:00 pm

Holy Wednesday | April 28th

Service and Sacrament of Holy Unction —4:00 pm

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

Holy Thursday | April 29th

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

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

Holy and Great Friday | April 30th

The Great Hours – 9:00 am

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

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

Holy Saturday | May 1st

Vesperal Divine Liturgy Announcing the Resurrection (Ποώτη Ανάσταση) – 10:00 am

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

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

Pascha Sunday | May 2nd

Agape Vespers – 12:00 pm

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



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN TARASIOS OF RHODOPOLIS

will ordain the Servant of God

EFSTRATIOS MAGOULIAS

TO THE HOLY DIACONATE

SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

AT THE

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

313 Tokay Avenue Modesto, CA 95350

HIERARCHICAL DIVINE SERVICES | 9:00 AM

We humbly request your prayers

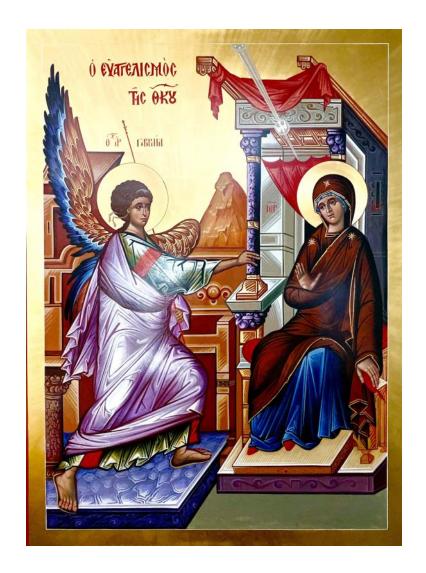
WWW.GOANNUNCIATION.ORG/LIVE-SERVICES WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/GOANNUNCIATION







ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS Εὐαγγελισμός τῆς Θεοτόκου



Join us to pray and celebrate the Divine Services for our parish feastday

Great Vespers | Wednesday, March 24^{th} at 6:00 pm Divine Services | Thursday, March 25^{th} beginning at 8:30 am

Χρόνια Πολλά! MANY YEARS!

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Hello from your Parish Council

e need to be *thankful*. What?? Really?? Yes, there is much to be thankful for. It has been a difficult year; Pandemic, Elections, Protests, Unrest. Every day we need to give thanks for all our blessings. Our church, our family, our friends, our medical heroes and front-line health care workers, armed forces, policemen, firemen, postman, our grocer, the restauranteur who is struggling to make ends meet but has opened for take-out only to allow you some good food and the ability to help them make ends meet. The list goes on and on. If you think of



all your contacts daily –you will find more people in your life to be *thankful* for. Each day I wake up, I give thanks to God for all my blessings and the gift of "one more day to try and get it right". Our life as Christians is one of getting knocked down but repeatedly getting back up. Since our lockdowns we have had difficulty seeing each other, worshipping together or just exchanging smiles. We are missing the human connection we all need. Church is different now (outdoor services; masking, temperature checks, tracing); but our church *is still here*. Elder Paisios said: in every test, let us say "Thank you my God, for this was needed for my salvation". Our forefathers had pandemics, diseases, economic hardships, natural disasters etc. *They did it all without the internet and Netflix*. We need to realize all the good things around us.

Give thanks daily for all you do have that is good in your life.

Some highlights of what the Parish Council is doing:

The Festival Committee has implemented and successfully had a "Greek to Go" series of food pickup once per month. We have had Pastichio, Stefado, Kota Psiti and Gyro. Much thanks to Stephanie Hionis and Dan Eriksson as well as all festival committee in organizing this and making it happen. To the cooks, assembly line workers, food pickup coordinators-a big "thank you" for helping. To Philoptochos, for *always* helping in kitchen, the baking of pastries, and helping with these events a big "thank you".

I want to mention some "unsung heroes" in our parish.

There are five people I want to single out for you this month than need a special "Thank you".

Since Covid-19—Events and rentals have stopped in our Annunciation Hellenic Center. Rula Manikas has had to deal with those parties who had dates on the books for weddings, receptions etc. These events were cancelled due to Covid-19. Some deposits went back, some patrons/parties rebooked, and this matrix of moving dates and options has required much input and juggling of "potential" dates. Rula has kept this organized. Due to no rentals in Annunciation Hellenic Center—our janitorial company; SBM management has not been needed. They are on hiatus and this saves us expenses but the offices and preschool as well as church still need to be cleaned. Kathy Lester has worked to keep our facilities clean and sanitized for the little traffic we do have. I really want to give a *big thanks* to our office staff; Effie Theodor and Maro Mavroforakis. Through the lockdowns, people still call the church and still need to be directed accordingly. Bills keep coming and have to be processed and paid. Accounting needs to be done. The work of the church never ends. Effie and Maro have done an amazing job with the number of contacts they have to deal with during this trying time. Thank you both for being responsive to our stewards, our community, PC members and clergy.

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Our facility and campus are big and like your home, needs maintenance. Systems fail and things break that are often expensive repairs. We are out of warranty for many items in the Annunciation Hellenic Center and this leaves us at the mercy of original vendors to repair and maintain many items or a new vendor at large. Chris Georgoulias has stepped up, overseen many major repairs and has done many minor repairs himself to keep our hall and church running. He has called to task some of the original subcontractors to fix problems that were not seen during construction without us incurring any expense. The Church has saved substantial sums by him offering his talents and time. Thank you Chris for all your time and efforts.

There are *many* volunteers I could thank. We all do what we can do and try our best, within our comfort zone and guidelines for virus to help. I really want to thank you all for supporting our church, the online ministries and helping to make our church run.

The Parish Council operates off of zoom—not a very personal interface; but we are getting the work of the church done. We have a group of hard working and dedicated individuals doing their best for the good of the church. Trying times require trying efforts. We are all in this together. Here is to hoping a brighter future is around the corner and we can all see each other soon.

Dr. Nicholas Rotas Parish Council President

AN UPDATE ON THE BUILD

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

The Build Facts as of 2/1/2021:

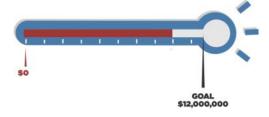
Pledges received in January: \$7,395.00

Building Loan Balance: \$2,415,457.99 at 4.19% interest

Pledges Outstanding (as of 2/10/21): \$440,890.00

Total Given: \$8,187,146.35

Monthly Payment: \$14,127.59



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.

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

"God asks little, but He gives so much."

Dear Annunciation Faithful,

t is an honor to be sending this message to you. We truly have so much to be grateful for. Even though the pandemic is far from over, we have vaccines that will surely help us in our fight against this virus. This is encouraging.

Also encouraging and beautiful to see is our parishioners doing their best to honor God and our Church. Even in the most challenging of times people will try to give more. This has been evidenced in many ways and especially in our stewardship gifts.

Our pledges this past year exceeded our budgeted amount by almost \$100,000.

God is truly good and always in our midst.

Many of you took the time to call, deliver food and check on parishioners during this past year. Thank you for exemplifying what it means to "love thy neighbor."

Whether indoors or outdoors our priests, pastoral assistant, chanters and altar servers kept celebrating liturgies.

Again, thank you.

As we look forward to services in Church tomorrow and as we begin our journey toward Lent and hopefully a more "normal" life let us not forget that our Church and God are here for us. They don't get to "take a break."

I'm remembered of the following words of St. John Chrysostom," God asks little, but He gives so much."

I hope to see you all soon.

Dr. Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Co-chair

OPERATING FUND

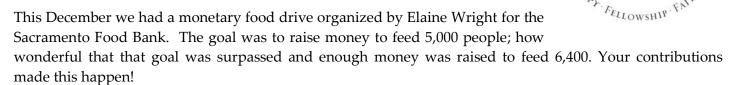
Income	1/1/21 - 1/31/21	2021 Budget YTD
Pledges	\$96,063	\$53,333
All Other Revenue	\$36,469	\$20,098
Total Revenue	\$132,532	\$73,431
Expenses		
Total Staff Exp.	\$50,824	\$51,146
Program Services	\$235	\$1,667
Other Oper. Exp.	\$43,205	\$25,466
Archdiocese National Ministries	\$0	\$11,250
Total Expense	\$94,264	\$89,529
Balance as of 01/31/21	\$38,268	
	AT - 270-845	
2021 Pledges as	of February	22, 2021
Stewardship Budget	\$640,000	
Pledged to Date	\$315,034	
Total Amount Received	\$127,603	
Total Members Pledged	236	

PHILOPTOCHOS

Hello Everyone!

hope you and your families are well and that spring will bring only harmony and hope to all of us!

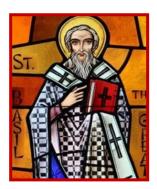
Despite COVID-19, Philoptochos has maintained a busy schedule. We have held our monthly meetings virtually and have continued with our fundraising efforts to help the poor and those in need.



Most recently we had our Vasilopita cutting after the Liturgy on January 31. The Vasilopita was shared with the various parish organizations, as is normally done at the annual Vasilopita Luncheon. I would like to thank those organizations for their generosity toward St. Basil Academy, the recipient of their donations. Vivian Vail, on behalf of the Hellenic Golf Classic, was the winner of the lucky coin. May you and the Golf Classic have a great year Vivian!







Our Thanksgiving and Christmas bake sales were very successful, and I would like to acknowledge Toula Zioga-Delis, Despina Demas, and the many volunteers for their hard work. I'm also happy to say that Toula and Despina have again volunteered to coordinate the Easter bakes sales.

February is usually the month dedicated to raising funds for Kids 'n' Cancer. However, because of COVID, the month-long events have been rescheduled to May. Elaine Wright will organize the activities as she has done so many times in the past. Thank you, Elaine.

This spring Philoptochos will be holding Board elections and election of chapter officers. You will be hearing more about this, and I encourage all Philoptochos members to run for the Board and for elected office. Of course, I also encourage everyone to become a Philoptochos member. The form can be downloaded online at www.annunciationsac.org/philoptochos/ or by mail.

As many of you know, our Philoptochos chapter is part of the Metropolis Adopt-A-Student Ministry, which supports students at Hellenic College/Hellenic Cross Seminary. We generally support two students, but this year we have only one: Kyle Sterner. Presbytera Barbara, committee chair, has regular contact with Kyle, and her latest update is that he is well and very busy in Israel.

PHILOPTOCHOS

Three current projects being discussed in Philoptochos include developing a Procedures Manual, improving our website by adding a direct email address so that parishioners may communicate easily, and expanding outreach to members who cannot attend meetings for many reasons.

The Procedures Manual will hopefully encourage new membership by providing answers to questions new members may have on activities and events. Similarly, a direct email address should improve communication and provide a better path to having questions answered. The expanded outreach is also meant to enhance communication channels and to let people know that we care about them and are there to help if needed.

As I have done before, I would like to remind you that Philoptochos has a significant relationship with Wellspring Women's Center and our liaison is Pearl Thomas. Pearl is available to deliver donations for the women and children at the Center and may be reached at marapkt@aol.com.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please don't hesitate to contact me at (530) 656-2177 or hnickols@yccd.edu.

My best wishes,

Helen Nickolson

Annunciation Philoptochos President



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

021 marks the 100th anniversary of our Annunciation Church, which held its first liturgy on Christmas Day of that year. To celebrate this significant milestone, our community is planning a Church Picnic on August 4, 2021; a Church Anniversary Gala on Dec 4, 2021; and a 100th Anniversary Album.

The Anniversary Album's goal is to document the history of the church, parochial groups (e.g., Philoptochos), Annunciation family histories, memories, and photos, as well as those of the Annunciation fraternal organizations. Families and fraternal organizations are asked to purchase the page(s) that they wish to submit for their histories/photos. Cost is \$100 per ½ page or \$180 for each full page.



Specific instructions for how to submit the histories and photos and make payments can be found on our parish website, in parish e-mails, mailed to your home, and posted on social media. The histories and photos will be laid out according to the submitter's instructions if possible, then returned for the submitter's approval before it is finalized. A Voresis family history will be included to serve as a example. Also included will be a list of people to call for help with your submittal. The Album will be published in early 2022, after the Gala, at a cost of \$75 per album.

The draft Album Table of Contents follows. If we have forgotten anything in the table of contents, please let us know. Note some ministries will be covered in the history section (e.g., Endowment Fund Committee)

- Introduction including theme page, letters from dignitaries
- History of the Annunciation starts in the late 1800s and culminates in 2021. Histories will be broken out in 10-year increments and includes the vision for the future
- Shorter histories of St. Katherine and St. Anna's follow the Annunciation's histories
- Histories of the Clergy and parochial groups this includes Clergy, Sunday School, Choir, Chanters, Youth Groups (including altar boys), Building Committees, Book Store, Greek School, Adult Senior League, Greek Festival, Missions and Outreach, Archdiocese and Diocese awards.
- Fraternal Groups AHEPA, GAPA, Cretans, the Daughters of Penelope, the Maids of Athena, the Sons of Pericles, American Hellenic Profession Society, Pan Arcadians, Roumeli, Peloponnesians (did we miss anyone?)
- Families families that support the Annunciation during this centennial period and their family histories.
- "Looking Toward the Centennial" family histories published in the Observer will be included.
- Pictorial histories: will be included from the Eugene Fotos Library and those submitted by parishioners. If you have pictures of church activities and our participation in community events, that should be included in the album, please let us know. If the photos are not digital, we will see they are transferred to a digital photo and filed in our library for potential use in the Album.

You can see we need your help: in getting the word out regarding the Album, in supplying us with photos regarding church and community events, reviewing the table of contents to see if we have missed anything and in volunteering in preparing the Album. Please forward any questions, concerns and input to imamalis@comcast.net or gerri.magers@chariscg.com.

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

The Salidas Family's Love of Annunciation By Jim Salidas

e arrived in Sacramento in the Summer of 1964 with our then two year old son. Our lives in Boston had centered around family and Church and we were blessed to have as our parish priest the Rev. James Coucouzes, who later moved on to become Archbishop Iakovos, of North and South America. It was no surprise then that upon arriving in Sacramento we sought out the Greek Orthodox Community and spearheaded by Yiayia Emily Vrattos' efforts we soon got involved with various aspects of the community. Our three children, George, Susan, and Sandra went to Sunday School and later our teenage daughters danced for award winning groups and served on the FDF board that hosted a festival in Sacramento. Yiayia Emily went on to preside over the Annunciation Senior League for many years and was an active Food Festival participant.



Yiayia Emily accepting a piece of vasilopita from Fr. Dogias on behalf of ASL



Jim and Sylvia Salidas

Sylvia joined the Annunciation choir where she formed lasting friendships. In time she became active in Philoptochos and the Dance Support group for many years. Eventually, as the leader of both groups, and with innovative initiatives such as Dial a Baklava, male Comedy/Fashion shows, and wine tasting parties she raised large sums of money for new kitchen equipment, dance costumes, a dance costumes storage room and many other Philoptochos projects. During those years, Sylvia also was heavily involved in Food Festival food prep during the summer as well as creating the successful Festival Agora, an ongoing Food Festival feature. Sylvia and Presvytera Dogias introduced the a la Carte concept in 1981 featuring four items. We had just remodeled our kitchen and had our old stove which we moved to Cal Expo for the weekend to support the a la Carte booth. The stove did its job, the a la Carte booth was a roaring success, and it became the chief source of revenue in all future Food Festivals. While Sylvia devoted her efforts to Philoptochos and Dance Support Group, I

served a number of years on the Parish Council, including three terms as President, and was active on the Food Festival steering committee for over ten years, serving as chairperson five years.

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Looking back on our experiences I came to realize that the activity that was the most fulfilling was the Food Festival. In 1964 the community held its first festival and little did they know the size of the tiger they had by the tail! That modest beginning, a one day event on our Church grounds, would grow and move to ever larger sites, from Church grounds to the Scottish Rites Temple, to the Old Fair grounds on Broadway, to Country Club Center, to Jesuit HS, to Cal Expo, before settling in for 30 years at the Sacramento Convention Center, then finally back to our new Church grounds. What was constant was the willingness of our volunteers to adapt, think creatively, and work hard. People became known by their Festival roles. "Jim Psihopaidas, yes, he runs the bars". The Langley family "oh they run the Loukoumades booth". There's Nick Kerhoulas and Jimmy Marcos, they cook the chicken at the hall and ship it to the Community Center" That's Lucille Vlahos, she's in charge of pastry. People took pride in their continued involvement and turned out a quality product.

Unexpected conflicts happened that caused us to worry and to adapt. One year while at Cal Expo a Billy Graham rally was scheduled the same weekend and the parking lot was full while our Festival hall was empty. We worried until the rally ended and we were swarmed by hordes of hungry rally goers! Another time at the Community Center there was a Cosplay Convention going on with people dressed in other worldly costumes. We quickly got the word out that people in costume could come in free. It made for a very colorful mix!

My years spent on the Festival committee were rewarding. We formed lifelong friendships, the kind you can only create by working "in the trenches" with others. Tino Manus became like a brother. I loved the challenge of putting it together, incorporating new ideas, new layouts, working with dedicated people, and when it was all over, the satisfaction of having completed another successful festival. I look back on the many people who over the years have stepped up and accepted the responsibility, especially that first group in 1964, and I marvel at their dedication. So many come to mind — the women who picked up supplies the day before and went home and baked a pan of galactobouriko and delivered it to the Festival. The men and women who spent a day making 7,000 spanakopites while enjoying each other's company. The ladies in Greek dress smiling as they served food and explained the difference between Moussaka and Pastitsio. Our young dancers showcasing our culture. The people who labored behind the scenes building a papier-mâché Porch of the Maidens that became a favorite photo spot, and Greek columns out of cardboard tubing that looked so



Jim preparing shrimp Santorini

real people would constantly lean against them then jump away when they tilted! Thank you, all of you, for letting the Salidas family be a part of this wonderful experience while being Annunciation parishioners.



March 2021

25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 2	21 21 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25 25	11 Clean Monday 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Lenten Reflection	7 % 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School	Sunday
	э	5	∞ ^	Monday
2	(*) 23	_ c.f fs	6:30 pm Philoptochos Meeting	Tuesday 6:00 pm Virtual Youth Group Meetings
30 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Great Vespers: Feast of the Annunciation	16 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts	9 (11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis	Wednesday 2 11:00 am Studies in the Faith 6:00 pm Small Paraklesis 7:00 pm Orthodoxy 101
	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Feast of the Annunciation	of 18	sis 10	Thursday 4
न्ध्री Fast Day	7:00 pm Salutations to the Holy Theotokos	7:00 pm Salutations to the Holy Theotokos	12	Friday 4
	26 % 27	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Saturday of the Souls	8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Saturday of the Souls	Saturday 6 8:30 am Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Saturday of the Souls Greek-to-go: Moussaka

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April 202

6:00 pm Great Vespers: 9:30 am Divine Liturgy: Saturday of Lazarus Saturday 8:30 am Orthros Palm Sunday %। 23 **%** 9:00 am The Great Hours 3:00 pm Great Vespers: Descent from the Cross 7:00 pm Salutations to the Holy Theotokos 7:00 pm Salutations to 7:00 pm Salutations to the Holy Theotokos the Holy Theotokos The Akathist Hymn Lamentations 7:00 pm The 29 15 7:00 pm The Passion of Christ/The 12 Gospels 10:00 am Vesperal Divine Liturgy: The **Mystical Supper** 28 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy of 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy of 6:00 pm Divine Liturgy of 11:00 am Studies in the 11:00 am Studies in the 11:00 am Studies in the 7:00 pm Orthros of the the Presanctified Gifts the Presanctified Gifts the Presanctified Gifts 4:00 pm Service and Sacrament of Holy **Mystical Supper** Unction Faith 13 27 8:30 am Divine Liturgy of 7:00 pm Service of the Bridegroom & Hymn of the Presanctified Gifts 6:30 pm Philoptochos 6:00 pm Virtual Youth **Group Meetings** Meeting کار 56 را ج 6:00 pm Great Compline 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Lenten Reflection 7:00 pm Lenten Reflection 6:00 pm Great Compline 7:00 pm Lenten Reflection 7:30 pm Parish Council 7:00 pm Service of the Fast Day Bridegroom Meefing 81 % 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday 2:00 pm Virtual Sunday School 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 7:00 pm Service of the Palm Sunday Sunday 8:30 am Orthros 8:30 am Orthros 8:30 am Orthros 8:30 am Orthros School

Bridegroom

GREEK-TO-GO

s planning continues for the 2021 Greek Festival in October, we're keeping very busy each month with the "Greek-to-Go" events. In January, we offered a Greek chicken dinner with dolmades that completely sold out and received many compliments from the community. We also sold Greek pastry boxes that were very popular. In February, we offered a gyro sandwich and hit a new record by selling approximately 900 gyros! A huge thank you to our hard-working cooks, food preppers and all volunteers helping to make the Greek-to-Go events a success.



Coming up in March, the menu will feature Moussaka and in April we're planning a Lenten meal. Please check the Annunciation bulletin and email blasts along with the Sacramento Greek Festival website (www.SacramentoGreekFestival.com) and social media for the latest details on the menu and event dates. You can order online or by calling the church office.

We are grateful to each and every one of you who support the Greek-to-Go events by purchasing dinner or volunteering your time to help with the planning, publicity, cooking, food packaging and take-out logistics. We're always eager for more volunteers and hope you'll support our next event.

With Gratitude, The 2021 Greek Festival Board











\$ 20 DINNER Dinner For One Includes:

- Moussaka A rich tomato meat sauce layered with eggplant and topped with a thick layer of béchamel sauce
- **Greek Salad -** Tomatoes, cucumber, Kalamata olives, and Feta cheese
- **Tiropita -** Light and flaky Greek pies filled with Feta and Ricotta cheeses
- **Rizogalo -** Creamy Greek vanilla rice pudding, topped with cinnamon (milk based)

\$ 70 DINNER

Four servings of Moussaka, a family-sized Greek Salad, four tiropites, and rice pudding for four

\$45 A-LA-CARTE Half Pan Moussaka Includes

A frozen, half-pan (10" x 12") of Moussaka, a rich tomato meat sauce layered with eggplant and topped with a thick layer of béchamel sauce. (Serves 6-8 people and includes cooking insturctions).

\$15 MEZE BOX

2 tiropites, 3 veggie dolmades, Feta cheese, Kalamata olives, pita, and tzatziki

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, March 6, 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

With Deep Appreciation

y now we are all familiar with the challenges COVID-19 has presented to our church life. We are grateful to our Parish Leadership for their dedication to the wellbeing of our Church and we are especially thankful to our Sunday School teachers for their passion, resilience, and strength in navigating unprecedented challenges over the past year.



They have transitioned from normal teaching to remote learning setting up new lesson plans, preparing materials, navigating

technology, finding new ways to connect with their students and all that while the jungle the effects of COVID-19 in their work, family, and personal life as well. They are our Sunday School angels, and we thank God for them every day.

Preparing for Great Lent

It seems like it was yesterday that we proclaimed that Christ was born and celebrated His Baptism. Now we are ready to follow Him on his Journey to Golgotha and to His Resurrection proclaiming that He has Risen. Over a period of eleven weeks, when Triodion begins on Sunday, February 21 to Sunday, May 2 when we will celebrate Great and Holy Pascha, our Sunday School students will have many opportunities to follow the footsteps of Jesus, learning who He is, who they are, and practice their faith. We invite you to join us in our journey throughout the Lenten Season and Easter. Encourage your children to attend their virtual Sunday School class often. Make a point to attend online church services with them. The entire Lent season including Holy Week and Pascha is rich with church services and meaning. Take a look at the church schedule, mark your calendars and participate with all of us.

Invite your family and friends to join you on Google Meet on Sunday afternoons!

 1^{st} – 2^{nd} 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, Nicholas Wilk, Demetri Dogias

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.

MEET OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

















GREEK SCHOOL

arch is a vibrant month for the Greek School Program. As a designated California Heritage School, all of the instructors incorporate cultural studies in their lesson plans.



One of the highlights during this month is the celebration of the Greek War of Independence. Students are taught about this seminal moment in Greek history. Typically, teachers and students come together and prepare a lively performance that is given to the church community. This year, each individual class will commemorate Greek Independence in their own way; from art projects to reading about the revolutionary leaders, students will be exposed to one of the most significant holidays for the Greeks.



In addition, students will also be learning about the beginning of the Lenten period. Lent begins on March 15th, but the week before, the Greek school students will have an informative – but fun – lesson on *Apokries* (Carnival). The most well-known *Apokriatiko Glendi* in Greece happens in Patras. This is a two-day celebration beginning on Saturday and ending Sunday night. People dressed in costumes celebrate by eating, dancing, and watching (or participating in) parades.

The *Apokries* in Patras resembles Carnivals around the world and is often compared to the Carnival in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The parades, dancing, and music are very similar in both cities. In other areas of Greece, a more localized approach to *Apokries* can be seen. In Naoussa, men are dressed as *Boules* and parade through the city accompanied by the Zourna (musical instrument).

Each region of Greece has its own particular customs and traditions to celebrate the beginning of the Lenten period. Despite the regional differences in celebrations,



all of the Greeks come together on Clean Monday to fly kites and eat their first completely Lenten meal of the *Megali Tessarakosti*.

Finally, March also represents the month that students enrolled in the *Ellinomatheia* preparatory courses begin intensifying their lessons. Mock tests and supplementary class sessions begin in March so that students taking one of the eight levels of *Ellinomatheia* (A1 – Γ 2) will be adequately prepared to succeed in the exams, scheduled for May 18 - 20th. This year, the Greek School Program will have students taking the A1 and A2 exams. Similar exacting measures of preparation will be taken to ensure that all individuals taking the *Ellinomatheia* exam will have a safe and healthy environment.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

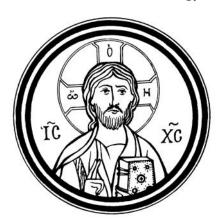


Studies in the Faith

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

Lenten Reflections

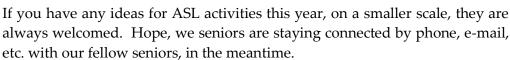
Every Monday night following Great Compline, join us in church or on our live-stream for a Lenten reflection from our clergy.





ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

appy New Year to our Annunciation Seniors, and may this year bring you health, above all, and many other blessings. Because of the "fluid" world we live in due to Covid, ASL cannot plan any social events at this time for the future. On the positive side, we can look forward to future fellowship and renewing friendships, @@@@@@@@@@@@ hopefully sometime in 2021.



Warm Regards,

Margo Tzikas ASL President

margotzikas@gmail.com



YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

SAVE THESE DATES AND EVENTS!

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

Virtual Meeting and Discussion on March 2nd at 6:00 pm Virtual Meeting and Discussion on April 6th at 6:00 pm

GOYA (High School)

Outdoor & Socially Distant Kickbacks/bonfires for March & April

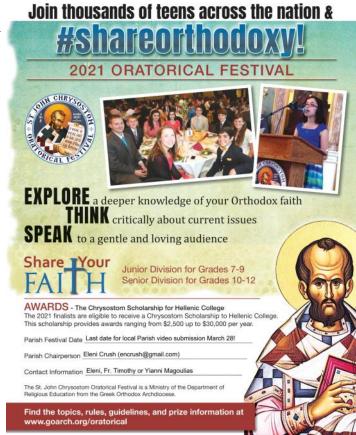
Young Adults (College)

NEW! Bonfire and discussion! (outdoor and socially distant!)

Young Professionals (23-35 years old)

We are transitioning our "Wisdom & Wine" to a virtual setting!

Please contact Yianni Magoulias if you are interested in hosting or attending any of these ministries!



DANCE SUPPORT GROUP & MINISTRY

t's been a long and lonely year without the fellowship of our dance program, but with youth sports restarting and many schools making plans to reopen, it is time to breath life back in to DSG. At this time last year, we intended to start the nomination and election process for new board members, but that, along with the whole program, was put on hold. In the coming weeks, please look for information about 2021 DSG Board elections as well as information on our Holy Friday luminary sales. We hope to get our community dancing again soon!



Annunciation Dance Support Group



facebook



Instagram







COMMUNITY CORNER

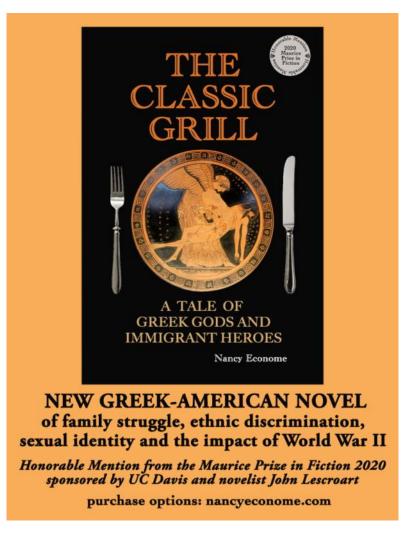


Want to wish someone happy birthday, graduation, anniversary, etc?

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



MORE INFORMATION

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AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support Our Church every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to our Church, all you need to do is sign up!

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After creating your account: On your first visit to Smile.Amazom.com, you need to select a charitable organization to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. When you search for a charity on Smile.Amazon.com enter "Greek Orthodox Sacramento" and our Church will pop up as the first result!

If you have already selected a charity and want to change your charity to our Church, simply sign in to smile.amazon.com and select "Change your Charity" under "Your Account." To find the Church enter "Greek Orthodox Sacramento" in the search box.

For questions, or help in creating an account, contact Parish Office at 916.443.2033

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Business Card	25.00	100.00
Back Page (Outside 1/2 page)	95.00	Not Available

Pledged Stewards 2021

(As of February 22, 2021)

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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 Christopulos 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 Kavlee Efstathiu

Peter & Anastasia Efstathiu John & Stella Eliopulos

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

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Constantin & Micki Genigeorgis

Alexis Scandalis Genung Joann Georgallis Perry Georgallis

John & Debbie George Chris & Angie Georgoulias

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 Maria Lappas

Georgia Larson Andrea Lendaris Gary & Irina Leonard Jesus & Helen Loaiza Mitchell Loper Alice & Randy Lyons Elaina & Gary Magana Geraldine Magers

Efstratios "Yianni" & Danae Magoulias

Chris & Maro Maguire

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Exaveria (Rula) Manikas

Anne Manolakas

Sam & Kerry Manolakas Timothy & Annette Manolis Athanasios Manolopoulos George & Marina Mantis Sam & Ann Marandos Antigoni Marcos Katherine Marefos Peter Margaris

Steve & Katherine Margaris

Nellie Margarite Dennis Marks Angela Martin John & Vicki Meers Pamela Middleton Tiffany & John Moffatt Jack & Marque Molodanof Cliff & Shari Moody

Karen Nelson

George & Gaye Nicholau

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Tommy & Alayna Panages Nick & Kontilo Pandeleon Peter & Gina Pandelopoulos

Yianni Pantis

John & Margaret Papadakis

Stephanie Papas Mary A. Pappas

Demetre & Susan Paraskevas Jerry & Catherine Pavlatos Christopher & Chanel Perinati

Chris & Heidi Perris Diane Petersen

(As of February 22, 2021)

All things are possible to the one who believes in Christ

Bassilios & Georgia Petrakis Michael & Stella Petrucci

Fotis & Tammy Petsalis Sofianos & Sara Piliotis

Marina & Alin Podoreanu

Bessie Pothos

Lucky & Dina Poulos

Julie & Greg Rausser

Father James & Barbara Retelas

Father Timothy & Pres. Marsha Robinson

Thomas & Carol Ann Robinson

Demetri & Malamo Romas

Nicholas & Carol Rotas

Peter & Jodie Sakaris

James & Sylvia Salidas

Katherine Sampanis

Ronica Sarkisian Carlisle

Daniela & Andrew Schmidt

Jacqueline & Steve Schwartz

Ralph & Vassie Sett

Roy & Dale Shults

Robert & Cathy Siderine

Greg & Valerie Simvoulakis

John & Georganna Sinadinos

Demetrios Spyridakis

Stylianos & Klea Spyridakis

Vasilios Spyridakis

Dessie & Sam Stamas

Charles & Florence Stamos

Merle Stathis

Makis & Freda Stathopoulos

Maria Stefanou

Eleanor M. Tatarakis

Art & Terre Terzakis

Effie Theodor

Maria & Christopher Theodor-Higdon

Sophie Theodore

Gregory & Mary Theophilopoulos

Pearl Thomas

Steven Tingus

Marian Trapp

Angelo G. & Katerina Tsakopoulos

Drosoula Tsakopoulos

Sofia Tsakopoulos

Manuel & Dianna Tsihlas

Taki & Kristen Vathis

Aleko & Maria Verrios

Michael & Arlene Vlamis

Paul & Rusti Voresis

Stavros & Eleftheria Vougioukas

Dimitri Vouros

Douglas & Donna Wagner

Richard & Valentina Watts

Maria Kostidou Workman

Theodora Yazigi

Andreas & Becky Yerocostas

Irene Zeronian

And our stewards who wish to remain anonymous

Pledged Families: 237



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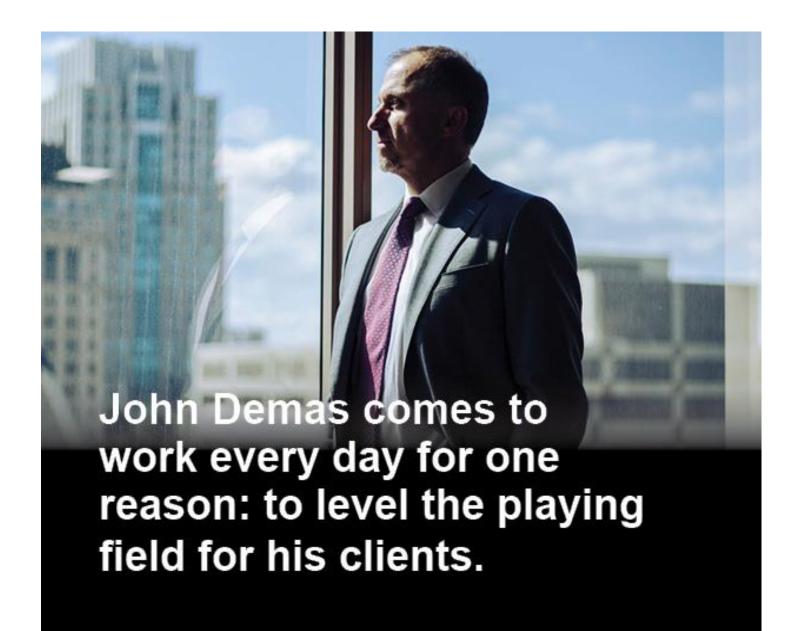




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Great Compline | Mondays 6:00 pm Presanctified Liturgy | Wednesdays 6:00 pm Salutations to the Theotokos | Fridays 7:00 pm

ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS PARISH FEASTDAY CELEBRATION

Great Vespers | Wednesday, March 24th 6:00 pm Divine Services | Thursday, March 25th 8:30 am