



THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

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THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome into the church:

Theodora, Baptized and Chrismated
Philippa, Baptized and Chrismated
Viviana "Eleni", Baptized and Chrismated
Linda "Evangelia", Baptized and Chrismated
James, Baptized and Chrismated

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

Georgia Larson
Kalliroy Pappas

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Sunday Bulletin

Wednesdays by 4pm to communications@annunciationsac.org

This Week at Annunciation Email

Wednesdays by 4pm to communications@annunciationsac.org

Bi-Monthly Observer

October 10 to annunciationobserver@gmail.com

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1

Ecclesiastical New Year

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

11th Sunday of Matthew | Saints Zachariah and Elizabeth
(22nd Anniversary of Fr. Timothy's ordination to the Priesthood)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

Nativity of the Theotokos

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

Vespers & Vigil for the Elevation of the Holy Cross at the Elevation of the Holy Cross Church,
9000 Jackson Road, Sacramento @ 6:00 pm

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14

Elevation of the Holy Cross

OCTOBER

MONDAY, OCTOBER 18

Saint Luke the Evangelist

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 23

Saint James
Name Day of our Presiding Priest

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26

Saint Demetrios

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

PASTORAL MESSAGE

You've Got Mail!

Remember that movie? (1998. Tom Hanks. Meg Ryan. Great movie!) Part of the charm of that movie was the novelty of receiving email. There wasn't very much email around back in 1998. Remember? Were those the good old days? You will notice, we hope, that Fr. James and I, and the office staff, and Parish Council, try NOT to send you too much email. I send out one extensive email on Mondays, and this usually summarizes everything that is happening at the Church during the coming week. Once in a while, when something unexpected happens or when we think that something is very, very important, we send you a separate email as a reminder or because the message has a specific goal (e.g. Sunday School registration). We are trying to get your attention because we are your Church, your community, and what happens at Church does concern you and it is important. But we realize that the Church is just one more voice in the cacophony of electronic communication. Because we use an internet email building program (MailChimp), we know how many of you actually open the emails we send! About a third of you open our weekly emails to you. (More than half of you opened a recent appeal for donations for the fires in Greece. Good job!) In some cases, we send out notices to you for weeks, and then when the deadline comes, we hear back from you that you never heard about it! Actually, then, the problem is, we think, that you get a lot of email and that sometimes you do not pay attention to us. We sympathize! I get a lot of email and the pandemic seems to have increased the volume. Messages, personal messages, work messages, ads, more ads, updates, newsletters, junk, and on and on. **I have a question for you: Do you manage your email effectively?** Here are a few valuable, I hope, suggestions:

- **If your "inbox" has several thousand emails in it, it is basically useless.** Want to fix it? Just delete it all and start over. If it is really important, the person will send it again. If it isn't important, you are sure to get it again and again!
- Remember: Spending a lot of time on email does not mean that you are successful or effective. Answering email first thing in the morning is probably not a good use of time. This depends on you. Some people do their best thinking in the morning; some people wake up slowly.
- Human brains are really good at solving problems and being creative but more so when they are not cluttered with distracting and mostly useless information. (This affirmation does not come from me. I am not that smart.) Think about this for a moment.
- **I have a magic "word of power" for you: UNSUBSCRIBE.** (I have this word on a magnet near my desk.) Do you really want to hear from that internet underwear vendor EVERY DAY? Go on line and change your preferences to one email a month! If the vendor won't do that, "Nuke 'em!"
- A few emails you get are important. Maybe it is your job. Maybe you have to read and respond.

PASTORAL MESSAGE

You've Got Mail!

If you can deal with the message in two minutes or less, do it. Respond. Then delete. DELETE, DELETE, DELETE! You know that when that person responds to your response, your original email will be right there in a different color below their email. And your email program puts all those deleted emails in your "Trash"! If you need to find it, it is still there somewhere. Get it out of your inbox.

- **If you can't deal with it right away or if you have to save it, then it is time to build some sub-mailboxes or folders in which you can put that email.** Establish a tickler folder for things you need to revisit. GET THE EMAIL OUT OF YOUR INBOX!
- How many emails should remain in your inbox? Think about it. How much unopened mail do you leave in your physical "snail mail" mailbox every day? None? Of course! **The ideal is 0 emails in your inbox.** None. If you can only get by with reducing your inbox to 20 or 30 emails or so, fine. But how many times do you want to look at that interesting email with the pictures of the Parthenon that your friend sent you last year? Day after day? Week after week?

As you can tell, I have been wrestling with this and thinking about this for a while. For a good reason. This is not just a matter of having an empty email inbox, it is matter of trying to focus and avoid needless and useless distractions in our lives! In this electronic age with so much information and so many images and stories and offers, this has become a major difficulty for us. The Fathers of our Church tell us repeatedly that one of the symptoms of our fallen, sinful condition is a "dispersed mind." This is a mind that is cluttered and anxious and angry and not focused on God and His love and His righteousness and not at peace! The battle of too much information is a battle for sanity and a battle for our souls. We desperately need to pay attention to what is important and ignore what is not important and what is harmful. It is a matter of freeing our minds and hearts to pay attention to God, to pray, to focus on the essentials, to focus on what is real and not what is virtual, to listen, to be silent, to focus on relationships and not on things.

Got any other ideas? Share them with me: frtimothy@annunciationsac.org



PASTORAL MESSAGE

Grace Filled Days

There are about 6,000 Greek islands. Maybe a hundred or so are inhabited. Each island has a story. One may possess a special historical significance, while another may be recognized as a great tourist destination. I remember how many years ago, I was told that some islands are special and possess a more enduring quality. The days in the calendar year are a like Greek islands; there are a lot of them, and they are known for different things. Some days are for work or school, others for play. Some days possess great historical significance. Still, there are other days that have an even more enduring quality. These are the holy days.

I like to think that these holy days, or feast days, can become like steppingstones that create a path leading us through the weeks and months ahead. If we let them, I believe these days can even chart a sure course through the years of our lives, because they always give us a glimpse of heavenly things while helping us stay on the path to our destination. The Church knows this very well, and so we keep the feast days holy by celebrating Divine Liturgies. This is how we continue to walk in the Light of Christ and not lose our way.

Especially on these days, the worship of the Church becomes more of an invitation to experience the holiness and the power of the Saint or feast commemorated. Just think how we are stirred when receiving the holy light at Pascha, by singing "Christ is Risen," or by just entering the Church and beholding the symbols of victory, the cross, the empty tomb. Think how our faith becomes stronger every time we light a candle to express our joy and trust in the Lord.

Memory is powerful, and because of this, we have many commemorations throughout the year. In fact, our way of worship in the Church is meant to revive memories, both collective and personal. In the unique liturgical setting of the Divine Liturgy that includes the richness of our hymns, icons, candles, incense, and vestments, worship comes alive and invites our participation. In this environment, you can sense that the Grace of God seeks to integrate you into Divine life.

Keep in mind that our feasts are not just exceptional times we set aside for ceremonial commemorations of past events or heroic personalities. They are much different than that; they possess a unique atmosphere because in Divine services the climate is always different, always richer. This is the climate of holiness, where remembrance becomes reality and where we come to know and experience that the Lord is Good. So then, throughout the rush of Fall with all its hopes, expectations, and renewed activities, we can also take care to put ourselves into that unique and beautiful climate of holiness that is the Church, attending her Divine services that are filled with God's Grace and the power and truth of the Gospel.

Looking ahead to this upcoming month, we see that within just the first two weeks we will be celebrating the Nativity of the Theotokos and the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Both have been placed before us like beautiful steppingstones that provide a solid footing meant to guide our steps, direct our lives, and keep us close to Christ. May we remember that these days are grace-filled and keep them holy.

(Thanks to Fr. Stephen Karcher, Priest of St. Anthony Greek Orthodox Church in Reno, Nevada, for this article. Slightly edited. Used with permission.)

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Warm Greetings from your Parish Council,

This month's message and update is dedicated to Reverend Father Tom Paris who fell asleep in the Lord on August 8, 2021, after a long battle with cancer. Fr. Tom served the souls of the Ascension Greek Orthodox Community in Oakland for 50 years. I will always remember his beautiful, powerful voice, warm smile and heartfelt love and devotion to all he encountered. May his memory be eternal!

The month of September marks the start of another ecclesiastical year for our parish. As we prepare for the final events of the 100th year celebration of our parish, there is much to look forward to. By the time this edition of the Observer prints, we will have enjoyed the church picnic on our campus plateia, and planning for the 100th Anniversary Gala Dinner will be in full swing by many committed volunteers. It promises to be a fantastic event as we celebrate this milestone in our history.

At the time of this writing and with the COVID-19 positivity rate rising in Sacramento County, the Festival Board is still working hard to present an abridged, two-day festival in early October. There will be plenty of volunteer opportunities that weekend, so please offer your time and talents. We pray that circumstances improve so that the parish can safely share its heritage and culture once again with the Sacramento community.

Many of our ministries and groups officially kick off now that summer is coming to an end. Volleyball, Greek Education, Sunday School, Annunciation Senior League, Youth Groups, Dance Support Group, Philoptochos (year round), and our beautiful Choir, to name the majority of them. There is something for everyone, but the most important remains our attendance in church and growing closer to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The constant that binds us 365 days a year. A truly remarkable gift to help us all find hope and comfort in our lives.

The Parish Council wishes to thank those servant leaders involved in all of our church ministries mentioned above, and any others I may have missed. May God bless them all. I must point out the importance of "involvement" in parish life and the benefits it affords us. It can be a simple connection to others who may need a friend or sympathetic ear, or a stepping stone to running for Parish Council, for example, and sharing a certain talent or skill set. Don't ever think you have nothing to offer! We've all been given gifts from God to share in meaningful and impactful ways. If you embrace the church and parish in this way, I guarantee both practical and spiritual fulfillment for a lifetime. I've used the following quotation often: "If not you, who?" "If not now, when?"

By now you may have noticed a kiosk in the narthex stacked with pamphlets and reading material about our Faith for visitors to our parish. There is also a guest book for those new to the faith, non-Orthodox or visitors from sister parishes. We welcome all to **"Come and see." John 1:46**

If you know of a visitor to our church on any given Sunday, please welcome them and direct them to a member of the Parish Council or one of the priests after Liturgy. Promoting a welcoming atmosphere to others who we may not know strengthens our own relationship with God and is the right path to follow.

LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

I will close with this thought about why the church is so important. As we remember and express gratitude for the families that established our parish 100 years ago out of necessity from the devastating flu pandemic of 1918 and 1919, acknowledging the parallels between that time period and now enduring the COVID-19 world wide pandemic. The church is still here for us, and always will be!!

Thanks be to God! See you in church!

George Dariotis
Past Parish Council President



PHILOPTOCHOS

Faith in Action. A Legacy of Philanthropy.

Who are we?

We are a group of people united by our faith and dedicated in service to others. We carry a legacy of love, care, and philanthropy that has been passed down to us by our mothers and grandmothers for many generations. We are involved in all areas of philanthropy, supporting many local, national and international charities. We are the Greek Orthodox Ladies Society of Annunciation, and we are a part of the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church and one of the largest philanthropic organizations in the United States. We seek to help those who are in physical or emotional pain, we volunteer in homeless shelters and soup kitchens, we contact food drives, raise funds for cancer, autism, and other medical needs, we offer relief to those suffering from natural disasters. We support a wide variety of charitable causes for children, low-income families, the elderly, veterans, victims of abuse and domestic violence, the hungry, the sick, and the homeless. We provide support for Orthodox missions, help with the continual education of our priests, and provide scholarships to young men who wish to dedicate their lives to the priesthood. We help our parishes in countless ways by extending our hand to all in need.

2021-2023 Philoptochos Board Members



Executive Board:

Despina Demas, President
Rula Manikas, 1st Vice President
Nicolette Madrid, 2nd Vice President
Alexis Genung, Corresponding Secretary
Ivi Crawford, Recording Secretary
Helen Grammatikakis, Treasurer
Althea Tatarakis Assistant Treasurer
Pearl Thomas, Social Services
Helen Nickolson, Advisor

Board Members:

Kathy Dokimos	Maria Theophilopoulos
Maria Higdon	Pearl Thomas
Julie Mamalis	Faye Vallas
Carol Rotas	Elaine Wright
Maria Sampanis	Toula Zioga-Delis
Effie Theodor	

PHILOPTOCHOS

Join our Philoptochos Chapter

Have you thought of getting involved in our community? Do you want to help others? We are reaching out to all women (and men) 18 years of age or older to invite them to be part of a philanthropic movement that changes lives and offers hope to many.

There is a place for you, for everyone! Do not hesitate to join even if you have a little time to spare.

Philoptochos offers many opportunities for community service and personal growth. Do your skills and talents lie in leadership, organization, special events, planning and presentation, graphic arts, web design, communications, photography, decorating, floral design, baking, cooking, cleaning, sales, food preparation and service? Can you offer transportation to those who need to come to church or go to a doctor's appointment? Are you interested in visiting the homebound, making welfare calls, helping the elderly and young alike? Do you have suggestions on programs and services that will help the people in our community? Get involved; Join us!! Send us an email at Philoptochos@annunciationsac.org and/or visit our web site www.annunciationsac.org/philoptochos/

Kids 'n' Cancer Fundraiser



**Kids'n'Cancer
Camp Agape**

Covid-19 may have altered our schedules and our way of life but it could not stop Philoptochos and its long tradition of service and responding in times of need. Kids-n- Cancer/Camp Agape families and children need us so, we have moved our 2021 Kids n' Cancer/Camp Agape Fundraiser from February to September and hosting a series of events each Sunday of that month.

Events to be held:

- 1st Sunday-9/5/21-Coffee hour
- 2nd Sunday-9/12/21- Nacho Sunday-football kick off
- 3rd Sunday-9/19/21-Pancake Breakfast
- 4th Sunday-9/26/21-Cake Raffle

On Sunday, September 12, we will host a Nacho Sunday - Football Kick off and on Sunday, September 19, we will have our Pancake Breakfast. You can purchase tickets at the door the day off, and tickets will be sold each Sunday during coffee hour leading up to the events. Take out would be offered should you wish not to stay.

On Sunday, September 26 we will have our annual Kids-n-Cancer Cake Raffle, and a chance to take home one, two or more (yes it can happen, and it has) of the most delicious gourmet cakes in town. If you would like to donate a cake for the raffle, you may either contact Elaine Wright at (916) 965-7607 or by email at joelainewright@hotmail.com. You may also drop off a cake the morning of the 26th in the Hellenic Center.

PHILOPTOCHOS

What is Kids 'n' Cancer/Camp Agape?

Kids 'n' Cancer/ Camp Agape is a Philoptochos ministry. It offers an all-expense-paid summer camp experience to hundreds of cancer-afflicted children and their families from less fortunate homes. The ministry also supports the Emilio Nares Foundation, which provides oncology transportation programs in San Diego and Orange

The story of Kids-n-Cancer began 25 years ago, when His Eminence Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco joined Father John Bakas and visited the Children's Hospital Central California near St Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. As they walked through the oncology unit, encountering families struggling to help console and save their children, he was especially bothered not seeing anyone talking with one another and being isolated. Upon his return, he asked Philoptochos to open a camp for these children and their families, with all their expenses to be paid. Today, with the continued support of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, this ministry operates camp facilities in California, Oregon, and Arizona yearly, and supports programs that provide for the needs of the families.

The Kids 'n' Cancer/Agape Camp fundraising events held yearly by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos chapters bring awareness of the ministry and the opportunity to fundraise in support of the mission to "Give your heart to a child". The largest event, Agape Celebration of Love, takes place in Southern California annually. At this event the money raised by each Philoptochos Chapter within the Metropolis of San Francisco is presented to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. Donations regularly total over \$250,000. None of the raised funds are spent on administration costs. Our chapter, with your help and generosity, has been contributing an average of \$3,500 per year to this beloved ministry. It is our hope that we will be able to do as much if not more this year.

Camp Agape is a special place where families can have the opportunity to enjoy carefree summer days, away from the sights and sounds of doctors, laboratories, and hospitals, where they spend so much of their lives. Children and their families engage in hands-on group activities that provide a reprieve from their daily challenges. For children and their families, this is a truly therapeutic camp experience.

The first Camp Agape started at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat center in Dunlap, California in 1989 under the care of Father John Bakas and has expanded to camps in: Portland, Oregon, 1995; Ramona, California, 2005; and Mayer, Arizona, 2007. Camp Agape offers an all-expense paid summer camp experience to hundreds of children with cancer and their families.

PHILOPTOCHOS

UPCOMING EVENTS

Philoptochos Meetings

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 - Philoptochos Board Meeting

6:30 p.m., Hellenic Center Foyer

Tuesday, October 12, 2021 – Philoptochos General Meeting

6:30 p.m., Hellenic Center Education Wing, Room 2206

Events

Sunday, September 12, 2021

Nacho Sunday - football kick off

Sunday, September 19, 2021

Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, September 26, 2021

Cake Raffle

CENTENNIAL UPDATE

On August 15, our community came together for a family picnic to celebrate our 100th Anniversary. What a great event it was! Our thanks to everyone who bought tickets and to those that attended and shared in the fun celebrations despite the August heat. When one of our older parishioners who arrived at church that morning at 9:30 am was asked at 1 pm if she would like to go home, the answer was a resounding, “No – I have not finished talking to everyone yet!”



Family members across generations had a great time participating in the 100th-themed activities, and we all had a chance to celebrate Kay Marefos's 98th birthday!

Many thanks to Terry Kastanis who curated a booth dedicated to our 100th year journey as a parish. Our scavenger hunt participants truly enjoyed getting to learn about our community's origin story, and many had a great time helping us identify fellow parishioners and family members featured in a photo of a former community picnic. We appreciate all of those who helped us identify people in that photo, with Nick Kamilos winning the “prize” by helping us recognize the most people from the photo!

We are grateful to everyone who helped us make the event possible – those who loaned and set-up the tents, table and decor, those who cooked the wonderful food, those who prepared and volunteered to run all of our activities, like the face painting and balloon making, cupcake walk, photo booth, bounce houses, arts & crafts and scavenger hunts, and those that participated and had a wonderful time. A special thanks goes out to our three event chairs, Kristen Kane, Christina Chuchas and Angelica Whaley.



CENTENNIAL UPDATE



CENTENNIAL UPDATE

The next community event celebrating our 100th Anniversary will be our holiday Gala hosted on December 4, 2021 in our beautiful Hellenic Center. Maria Kaufman will be chairing this event and has a wonderful evening planned with music, dancing and plenty of opportunities to connect with old friends. Tickets for the Gala will go on sale in October, and we'll be sharing more information about the event in some upcoming parish communications.

The Commemorative Anniversary Album has had a wonderful response, and we're excited to have received so many interesting family histories. Each story provides an incredible window into the shared collective history of our Annunciation parish – with accounts detailing lived experience like courageously leaving loved ones in Greece to travel halfway around the world, returning to Greece to serve and help in their war efforts, working on the railroads, moving from Boston to Sacramento, building the N Street church, being Orthodox in India, participating in missions, supporting the community and converting to Orthodoxy in the 2000s.

So far, over **180 families** that have submitted their histories and/or pictures to be featured in our Centennial Album. While the deadline to submit family histories for the Album has passed, you can still send in your picture to be added to the Album if you have not yet submitted anything to be featured in the publication. The album will be completed and available for purchase in early 2022 after pictures from the Gala have been added.

Thank you all for your support of our Anniversary effort, and we look forward to our continued celebrations as a parish family!

Your Annunciation 100th Anniversary Committee

Father Timothy Robinson, Terry Kastanis, Nick Rotas, Maria Kaufman, Christina Chuchas, Kristen Kane, and Gerri Magers.



CENTENNIAL UPDATE

Paul Peters' Experiences While Food Festival Chairman



Having chaired the Food Festival for three years, I was faced with several dilemmas that could have meant trouble. The one situation that stands out in my mind, happened late at night the day before the festival. This was an incident that would be anyone's nightmare. The phone rang late in the evening, the day before the opening of the festival. At that time, the Food Festival was being held on the Annunciation Church grounds, and the hall was the center of the festival activities where the dinner was served. Answering the call, a voice said, "Paul, the ceiling in the hall is collapsing." After finally realizing what was happening, I slowly gathered my anxious thoughts and then decided to call Steve Jordan who was a contractor. Disregarding the late hour, he called in his crew who had to work through the night to correct the problem. Thanks to Steve and his crew, they saved the day.

This is one of several situations I encountered as Chair those amazing years.

The loukoumathes booth was located outside the boiler room, between the church and the Hellenic Center. Of course, honey was used to make the syrup. Suddenly, in the afternoon, a panic call was sounded from the ladies at the booth. It seemed that a swarm of bees found the honey and were swarming the workers and guests, trying to get to the honey. What to do? Recalling that the symbol of the Mormon Church is the bee, a person from the Mormon Church was contacted who quickly sent people to collect the bees, removing them from the premises. Another potential tragedy was prevented.

Setting up, organizing, and planning the Food Festival was a rather new concept that the Orthodox Churches were embracing. Having newly begun, we were more or less like pioneers approaching a new experience. After committing to be Chair, I approached the committee with the idea that we should have the festival for two days, rather than just one. After much discussion, they agreed to try it but with much hesitation. Now, the festivals have successfully grown to two and one-half days.

Being new on the job, and a new arrival to Sacramento, I wasn't sure if the people would be motivated to attend the meetings set up to plan for the food festival. To me, it was important that we got input from as many people as possible who were interested in being involved. Prior to committing to chair the festival, I moved into our new home in Elk Grove where I started a garden which produced ample vegetables. In fact, there was so much produce, I decided to share the vegetables with those who attended the meetings. So, I brought my extra veggies to the meetings with the provision that no one had access to them until after the meeting was over.

I also made a decision to get acquainted with the volunteer workers and to see how the various booths were set up. Accordingly, I visited with the people as they were working. They were very enthusiastic about their commitment and were enjoying the camaraderie of working and being together on this special weekend.

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

I then decided to meet the business merchants who donate their goods for the festival, either at wholesale prices, or even at no cost. I found they were all generous and readily willing to help out.

This is when I approached Finegold Wholesale Restaurant Supply and, after introductions, informed them of our needs. We were given, on loan, equipment needed (commercial refrigerator, stoves, ovens, and a dishwasher), and were able to pay for the appliances in full after the food festival's final financial statement was completed.

Some of us seniors can recall the original kitchen. It was located in the hall, in a very small one-room space fitted with a stove and refrigerator that would be more appropriate for a small home, rather than to cook for high numbers of people. Considering the volume of dinners served in the dining room, we wouldn't have ever been able to meet the high demand of meals served. Thanks to Finegold Wholesale, we were able to accommodate all the guests. I can add that the hard-working cooks Jim Marcos and Ted Metropoulos and their crew, were thankful for the equipment.

To make the loukoumathes, I was given, free of charge, enough flour (which was premium flour used in restaurants) generously donated by Joe Halaway, the owner of Little Joe's Restaurant on Del Paso Boulevard. As I carried the sacks of flour into the kitchen, the ladies looked strangely at me--I'm sure the ladies were asking each other, "Who is this stranger?" Julia Poulos then approached me and said that they only use Swan Down Cake flour, and added that there was no picture of a swan on the sacks. Noting that this premium flour was donated at no cost, I couldn't understand why they disapproved. After considerable discussion, I finally took my pen from my pocket, proceeded to draw a swan on the sack as well as I could (an artist, I am not), and said, "There! Here's your swan." They accepted the flour, with reluctance, and made their wonderfully delicious loukoumathes.

I understood that the ladies made the loukoumathes the same as their ancestors had traditionally done for thousands of years. But their gathering the dough with their hands and using a spoon to drop the dough into the hot oil was time-consuming and cumbersome. During my travels while shopping, I came upon a donut machine that also fried donut holes. Without hesitation, I bought the machine and presented it to the ladies. As expected, they nixed the idea. They always fried the loukoumathes the old way and felt the product wouldn't be as good when using a machine. After much discussion, I suggested they try the machine out at the coffee hour after church a week before the food festival. They agreed—and never looked back.

Dolmathes are a popular dish, almost as popular as the warm, sweet, melt-in-your-mouth loukoumathes. However, to make them, is work intensive and finding the fresh grape leaves is a challenge. In order to find the fresh grape leaves that are specifically used for the dolmathes, it was decided to gather them when they're ready in the spring and prepare them for the freezer to use when the sessions for making the Dolmathes were set up.

LOOKING TOWARDS OUR CENTENNIAL

Ladies from the Cretan Club decided to spend a day gathering fresh grape leaves at a farm in Lodi. Katina Paras headed this endeavor by setting up a crew to pick the leaves and a second crew that would greet them at the Annunciation hall to clean the leaves and process them for freezing. A pleasant day was spent picking the grape leaves, eating lunch and the delicious cherries freshly picked from the cherry trees. Then, late in the afternoon, the pickup truck bed, filled with the grape leaves, was delivered to the hall and met by the crew to begin the preparation of the leaves. Yes, the crew counted the leaves and knew exactly how many dolmathes were to be made. Henry Ford would have been impressed with the system that worked so well that day. Antonia Chapralis shared this story about her mother, Katina Paras. "My mom, Katina Paras, used to love to work with Paul because he took care of his helpers. He'd say, 'Ladies, what do you need? What can I get for you?' Before quickly tending to their requests, his answer, would always be, 'No sweat!' The ladies appreciated that."

Much credit goes to all the people in the community who participated by bringing their own personal expertise to add to the success of the festival. As I walked through the festivals, I recall many pleasant memories. Agnes Fotos was the first person to set up a cooking demonstration booth. A display table with a large mirror overhead was loaned from Hiram High School in Sacramento. I saw Ted Pothos spending hours setting up and building booths and then dismantling them at the end of the festival. Eugene Fotos, the master emcee, kept the program going throughout the two-day period. The choir shared their beautiful voices and also demonstrated Greek dances in their ancient Greece costumes. The ladies of Philoptochos sold their delectable Greek sweets, most of which were made at home and brought to the hall. It was amazing to watch Georgia Econome, Anne Manolis, and Demetri Fotos create the panels that depicted the chronological history of Greece. They spent many hours researching and working on the panels. The results were so well done that teachers gave extra credit for students who visited the festival and wrote a report about them. As well, the panels have been loaned to other communities to be displayed at their food festivals.

As you probably noticed, planning such a demanding event as a food festival requires a tremendous amount of planning, plus lots of volunteers to carry it through. No one person could do it alone. I appreciated all the help from everyone, including the youngsters who helped out in various places, and found that this was a one large team (like a family) that worked together resulting in great success.



ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

After almost a year and a half of inactivity in our Annunciation Senior League activities, we will be able to get back together, hoping this year will not throw any more surprises at us. We have truly missed “breaking bread” and socializing with our members.

We are planning to meet in the Hellenic Center foyer on Thursday, September 16 at 11:00 for an ASL hosted brunch. We know many of you are excited and anxious to return.

Please call your reservations in to Mary Kondos at (916) 457-2196 for this lovely brunch.

We also would like you to put Thursday, November 11 on your calendars for an ASL luncheon at the Old Spaghetti Factory downtown. We will be honoring our ASL member veterans on that day and hosting their lunches. Again, those reservations need to be made with Mary Kondos at (916) 457-2196

We are looking forward to reuniting with all of you soon.

Margo Tzikas
ASL President



FESTIVAL

WE'RE BACK!

57TH ANNUAL

SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2021: NOON - 10PM
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2021: NOON - 10PM
\$2 ADMISSION (AGES 13 & UP)

616 ALHAMBRA BOULEVARD

www.sacramentogreekfestival.com

FESTIVAL

Greek Festival Update

With state and local health ordinances constantly changing, the Greek Festival Board continues to develop plans for a safe and successful event to benefit our church with much needed funds. We're working hard to come up with plan A, plan B and even plan C as we prioritize the health and safety of our volunteers and the community.

At this time, we remain hopeful that we will host a wonderful, in-person Festival on October 1st and 2nd. We've shifted to an outdoor-only event that will accommodate a smaller number of guests while still offering the hospitality and delicious food we're known for. We're planning for live music, Meze, Gyros, Loukoumathes, Pastries and much more. Volunteers are already baking and preparing, and we hope you'll check the church bulletin for dates and times if you're available to help.

If conditions change, we will be prepared to pivot to "Greek-To-Go" event that same weekend. Having hosted a series of take out events over the past year, we are determined to pull off a successful event even if we're faced with these limitations.

More than ever, we need your help in several areas. After many years of our kitchen crew being generously filled out by the Old Spaghetti Factory staff, this year that will not be possible and we need kitchen crew volunteers.

- Can you donate items to help us underwrite the Festival expenses?

Donate here: <https://tinyurl.com/yr2yzfps> or QR code below

- Can you sign up for a volunteer shift during Festival weekend?

Sign up here: <https://tinyurl.com/553758wf> or QR code below

Anything you can do to help make this event a success is truly appreciated! It's a great way to get involved, make new friends and raise funds for our church.

We truly appreciate your prayers, patience and support as we navigate these challenging times and do our best to support Annunciation. We look forward to seeing you at the Greek Festival!

With gratitude,
The 2021 Greek Festival Board



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CHECK
WWW.SACRAMENTOGREEKFESTIVAL.COM
FOR UPDATES



VOLUNTEER HERE

RUN TO FEED THE HUNGRY

RUN to Feed the HUNGRY®

TEAM NICK VORESIS

SPONSORED BY THE NICK VORESIS FUND TO FEED THE HUNGRY

TEAM NICK VORESIS is back for a ninth year of participation in Sacramento's Run to Feed the Hungry. In 2020 alone, TEAM NICK VORESIS was in the top ten highest-fundraising teams and generated over 21,000 meals for Sacramento families in need. Due to the pandemic and various humanitarian crises, the hungry in our community need us now more than ever before. Help TEAM NICK VORESIS make a difference!

ABOUT THIS YEAR'S **IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL** RUN TO FEED THE HUNGRY

WHAT

In-person and virtual 10K Run & 5K run/walk to support Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

WHEN

Thanksgiving morning - Thursday, November 25, 2021 — Rain or Shine!

10K - 8:15am • 5K - 9am

If you are a virtual participant, you can run or walk it anytime you want – including Thanksgiving morning

WHERE

The event starts on J Street just west of the entrance to the Sacramento State campus and runs through the beautiful tree lined streets of East Sacramento

If you are a virtual participant, you can participate from anywhere!

TEAM REGISTRATION

Youth (17 & under) - \$35 FREE with team code

Adults (18 & older) - \$50 \$25 with team code

READY TO JOIN TEAM NICK VORESIS? FOLLOW THE ONLINE INSTRUCTIONS BELOW:

- Contact Nicki at Nicki.D.Hansen@gmail.com for more details and team codes
- Visit www.RunToFeedTheHungry.com by November 11th
- Click the REGISTER tab on the top header
- Click SIGN IN to create an account or enter an existing password
- Register using the ADULT PARTICIPANT or YOUTH PARTICIPANT option
- Scroll down to TEAMS and select "Add this participant to a team created by someone else" and select TEAM NICK VORESIS from drop down
- Enter team code PROMO CODE box
- Complete the registration process

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT TEAM NICK VORESIS & RUN TO FEED THE HUNGRY

DONATE

- Visit www.RunToFeedTheHungry.com and click the FUNDRAISING tab on the top header
- Scroll down to PLEDGE TOWARD A TEAM and click VIEW TEAMS LINK
- Search TEAM NICK VORESIS and click DONATE
- All donations go directly to the Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services

SPREAD THE WORD

- Talk to your family and friends about how they can help
- Share event and team information to your social media

THANK YOU for your support!

Have questions or need assistance? Contact your Team Captain at Nicki.D.Hansen@gmail.com

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



DANCE SUPPORT GROUP

Thank you to all that have registered!

**Be on the lookout for more information as we
prepare for a fun and safe dance season ahead!**



STEWARDSHIP

"COME AND SEE"

As I sat in Church today listening to the chanters and priests, I had a sense of gratitude. While we are all dealing with the effects of the pandemic on so many levels, it was encouraging to see so many parishioners in Church. Being able to livestream services has allowed us to worship from a distance and help sustain us during the most challenging days of the pandemic.

Truth be told, there is nothing like being in Church. Orthodoxy is a faith that provides food for our souls and all our senses. Walk into Church and what do you see? Beautiful icons, lit candles and our priests in their vestments. What do you smell? Incense and the flowers that adorn our icons. What do you hear? Our liturgical hymns being chanted by our priests and chanters or sung by our choir. All these things add beauty to our liturgy but we are there to be closer to Christ. When we are present participating in liturgy we are one body in communion with God.

As we start another ecclesiastical year and school year my sincere hope is for health and fellowship as we gather in God's name.

Your continued support of our Church is welcome always.

In Christ,

Dr. Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Co-chair



PLEDGED STEWARDS 2021

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

Jacob & Monique Abumohor
Nick & Shari Alexander
Peter Anagnoston
Christ & Helen Anastasopoulos
George & Alexis Anastasopoulos
Geoffrey & Antonia Antipa
Milton & Panorea Apostolidis
Vasiliki & John Argyris Wheeler
Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas
Nicholas & Nikki Avdis
Spyridon & Georgia Avdis
Meryl Balalis (Panelli)
Dan & Katherine Ballas
Elias & Jane Bardis
Andreas & Audrey Bazos
Doris Bezzerides
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
John & Aglaia Capetanos
Peter & Fotine Casheros
Pauline Cazanis
Voula Cazanis
Gus Changaris
Tim & Antonia Chapralis
Timmy & Penny Chatzis
Jack Chesson
Peter & Maria Christi
Adoni & Kristen Christie
John & Julie Christie
John & Annette Christopoulos
Grigorios & Bettina Chrysofakis
George & Christina Chuchas
James & Despina Chuchas
James & Toula Clubb
John & Linda Compoginis
Peter & Samantha Cononelos
Antonia Const
Dennis & Jeanlaurie Corelis
Carol Crisp
Timothy & Effie Crush
Mary J. Curtis
George & Christine Dariotis

Michael Dariotis
Irene Darras
Fany Darzins
Aaron Davis
Linda Davison
Irene DeKellis
Edie Delean
John & Despina Demas
Kyriakos John Demas
Louis Demas
Matthew John Demas
Lou & Maria Deville
Costa & Victoria Dimitriades
Angelo & Adel Dimitropoulos
Michael & Forest Dimitropoulos
Dino & Danielle Disalvo
Nicholas & Laura Docous
Elizabeth Dokimos
Kathy Dokimos
Katherine Dole
Demosthenis & Evangelia Douveas
Marina Downing
William & Jessaca Downing
Jamie Durrell
James & Patricia Duvaras
Georgia Econome
Kiki Econome
Kaylee Efstathiou
Peter & Anastasia Efstathiou
Nicholas & Jeanne Efstratis
John & Stella Eliopoulos
Dan & Maria Eriksson
Bill Evrigenis
Sophia Evrigenis
Samir & Nuha Fadayel
Michael & Elena Fazio
Vasiliki & Erik Fkiaras-Magnuson
Christos Fotopoulos
George & Kathy Fotopoulos
John & Theofani Fotopoulos
Panagiotis Fotopoulos
Panayiotis Fotopoulos
Peter & Koula Fotopoulos
Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos
Antonia Fotos
Demetre & Christine Fotos
Kyriako & Brenda Fotos
Ruseta Fotos
Christina & Robert Freeworth
Gus & Stelene Galaxidas
Kelly Garrett
Maria Gassoumis

Andrew & Teresa Gates
Constantin & Micki Genigeorgis
Alexis Scandalis Genung
Joann Georgallis
Perry Georgallis
Christina George
Dianna George
John & Debbie George
Chris & Angie Georgoulas
Helen Gianakakis
Angela Gianulias
Sandra Giobres
Lener & Carmie Lee Gousetis
Helen Grammatikakis
Linda Gredvig
Louis & Georgette Grivetti
Suanna Gurovich
John & Edith Hagelis
George Hagios
Lynn Hall
Elena Hankard
RJ & Nicki Hansen
Demetre & Dimitra Haralambakis
Larry Haralambakis
Thomas & Phyllis Harper
Dannan & Lisa Harr
Elias & Catherine Hatzakos
Richard & Kim Hauch
Steve & Bia Hayes
Tim & Elene Hayes
Domna & James Hebenstreit
William Hess
Nikko Higdon
Anastasios & Stefanie Hionis
Mary Hionis
Ameen & Georgia Hofioni
Julian B. & Diane Holt
Sotiri & Julie Horner
Dino & Margarita Jakovas
George & Molly Lee Johnson
George Jouganatos
Kiki Jouganatos
Chris Jovalis
James & Robin Kafouros
Phyllis Marie Kafouros
Tedd Kagianas
Panagiotis & Katerina Kakkavas
Periklis & Marilena Kalfountzos
Pantelis & Patricia Kallergis
Dennis & Robin Kamilos
Nick & Andreanna Kamilos
Christopher & Kristen Kane

PLEDGED STEWARDS 2021

Ana Kapandritis
Euphrosyne Karas
Tina Karres
George & Mary Ellen Kassotakis
George Kastanis
Terry Kastanis
Demetri & Georgiana Katsifolis
Emorfia Katsimbras
Dan & Maria Kaufman
Andreas & Evelyn Kazanis
Giorgos & Jenna Kazanis
Ioannis & Cindy Kazanis
Anthony & Gail Kentroti
Bess A. Kerhoulas
Connie Keriotis
Denise Kincaid
Despina Kiriakes
Steven & Lindsey Kivetos
Peter Kleary
Pete & Maria Kokkinis
Alex & Kiriaki Kokologiannakis
Orestis & Jaime Koletsos
Mary Kondos
Moni Kondos
Steve & Paulette Kondos
Anthony Kontes
Lucas & Stella Kontes
Nick & Bernadette Kontos
George Koufasimis
George Koumis
George & Rula Kouretas
Stan & Angie Kritsepis
Ivana Krstic
Constantino & Dena Kuchulis
Angela Kuchulis Gianopoulos
Loula Kufasimes
Nicholas & Michele Kufasimes
John & Mary Kyriakides
Stelios Kyriakides
J.J. LaBritt
Jonny LaBritt
Stephen & Anna LaBritt
Henry & Maria Lafayette
Drew & Lia Lallas
Frances Lambrose
Dean & Diane Langley
Ronald & Georgia Langley
Maria Lappas
Andrea Lendaris
Gary & Irina Leonard
Esther Lilakos
Eva Livanios
Jesus & Helen Loaiza

Kathy Loper
Mitchell Loper
Diane Lydon
MariBeth Lydon
Mary Lydon
Alice & Randy Lyons
Elaina & Gary Magana
Geraldine Magers
Father Efstratios & Danae Magoulas
Chris & Maro Maguire
James Makris
Stanley Makris
Borka Malkovich
Julie Mamalis
Athanasia Manikas
Exaveria (Rula) Manikas
Anne Manolakas
Katherine Manolakas
Sam & Kerry Manolakas
Timothy & Annette Manolis
Athanasios Manolopoulos
George & Marina Mantis
Sam & Ann Marandos
Antigoni Marcos
Katherine Marefos
Peter Margaritis
Steve & Katherine Margaritis
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Timothy & Agapi Mort
Karen Nelson
George & Gaye Nicholau
Helen & Lawrence Nickolson-Michel
Joanna Leventis & Benjamin Noonan
Howard & Stella Norris
Tina Pacini
Tommy & Alayna Panages
Nick & Kontilo Pandleon
Peter & Gina Pandelopoulos
Helena Pantelopoulos
Tom Pantelopoulos
Yianni Pantis
John & Margaret Papadakis

Anna Papajohn
Tasia Papajohn
Stephanie Papas
Beatrice A. Pape
Louie & Voula Pappas
Mary A. Pappas
Helen Paras
Demetre & Susan Paraskevas
Perry & Kiki Parker
Jerry & Catherine Pavlatos
Christopher & Chanel Perinati
Denise Perinati
Gregory & Jill Perinati
Chris & Heidi Perris
Paul & Shirley Peters
Diane Petersen
Bassilios & Georgia Petrakis
Michael & Stella Petrucci
Fotis & Tammy Petsalis
Nikolas & Nicole Pikios
Sofianos & Sara Piliotis
Marina & Alin Podoreanu
Bessie Pothos
Lucky & Dina Poulos
Julie & Greg Rausser
Father James & Barbara Retelas
Anna-Maria & Roger D. Riggsby
Father Timothy & Pres. Marsha Robinson
Thomas & Carol Ann Robinson
Demetri & Malamo Romas
Nicholas & Carol Rotas
Kari Rousakis
George & Mary Roussas
Peter & Jodie Sakaris
James & Sylvia Salidas
Katherine Sampanis
George Sargetis
Ronica Sarkisian Carlisle
Panayiota Sarlis
Diane Scandalis
Daniela & Andrew Schmidt
Jacqueline & Steve Schwartz
Steven Sellas
Ralph & Vassie Sett
Roy & Dale Shults
Robert & Cathy Siderine
Mary & Maurice Silva
Greg & Valerie Simvoulakis
John & Georganna Sinadinou
Cynthia Siokos

PLEDGED STEWARDS 2021

Demetrios Spyridakis
 Stylianos & Klea Spyridakis
 Vasilios Spyridakis
 Dessie & Sam Stamas
 Alex & Katie Stamos
 Charles & Florence Stamos
 Mike & Connie Stanton
 Merle Stathis
 Makis & Freda Stathopoulos
 Mary D. Stathos
 Nick & Helene Stathos
 Maria Stefanou
 J & J T
 Barbara Takanikos
 Althea & Fred Tatarakis
 Eleanor M. Tatarakis
 Art & Terre Terzakis
 Effie Theodor
 Maria & Christopher Theodor-Higdon
 Sophie Theodore
 Gregory & Mary Theophilopoulos
 Pearl Thomas
 Steven Tingus
 Paula Titus
 Marian Trapp
 William & Joann Triphon
 Angelo G. & Katerina Tsakopoulos
 Cathy Tsakopoulos
 Drosoula Tsakopoulos
 John Tsakopoulos
 Sofia Tsakopoulos
 Vasilis & Sofia Tsigaris
 Manuel & Dianna Tsihlias
 Angelos & Farida Tsiros
 Scott & Vivian Vail
 James & Faye Vallas
 Christina Vathis
 Helen Vathis
 Taki & Kristen Vathis
 Aleko & Maria Verrios
 Vasilis & Judy Verrios
 Vasseliki Vervilos
 Anthony & Athanasia Virgadamo
 Michael & Arlene Vlamis
 Paul & Rusti Voresis
 Stavros & Eleftheria Vougioukas
 Efstratios Vourakis
 Dimitri Vouras
 Douglas & Donna Wagner
 Richard & Valentina Watts
 Daniel & Donis Whaley
 Maria Kostidou Workman
 Jerry & Elaine Wright

Theodora Yazigi
 Andreas & Becky Yerocostas
 Anestis & Areti Yiaslas
 Athanasios & Elizabeth Yiaslas
 Paul Zagaris
 Nikitas & Maira Zagoras
 Irene Zeronian

And our stewards who wish to remain anonymous

Pledged Families: 375

Last Updated: 8/16/21

OPERATING FUND

Income	1/1/21 - 7/31/21	2021 Budget YTD
Pledges	\$325,370	\$373,333
All Other Revenue	\$304,869	\$175,681
Total Revenue	\$630,239	\$549,014
Expenses		
Total Staff Exp.	\$335,270	\$358,025
Program Services	\$7,912	\$11,667
Other Oper. Exp.	\$203,384	\$189,616
Archdiocese National Ministries	\$45,000	\$78,750
Total Expense	\$591,566	\$638,058
Balance as of 07/31/21	\$38,673	
2021 Pledges as of August 16, 2021		
Stewardship Budget	\$640,000	
Pledged to Date	\$408,944	
Total Amount Received	\$346,188	
Total Members Pledged	375	

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**Saturday
November 13, 2021
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.**



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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	
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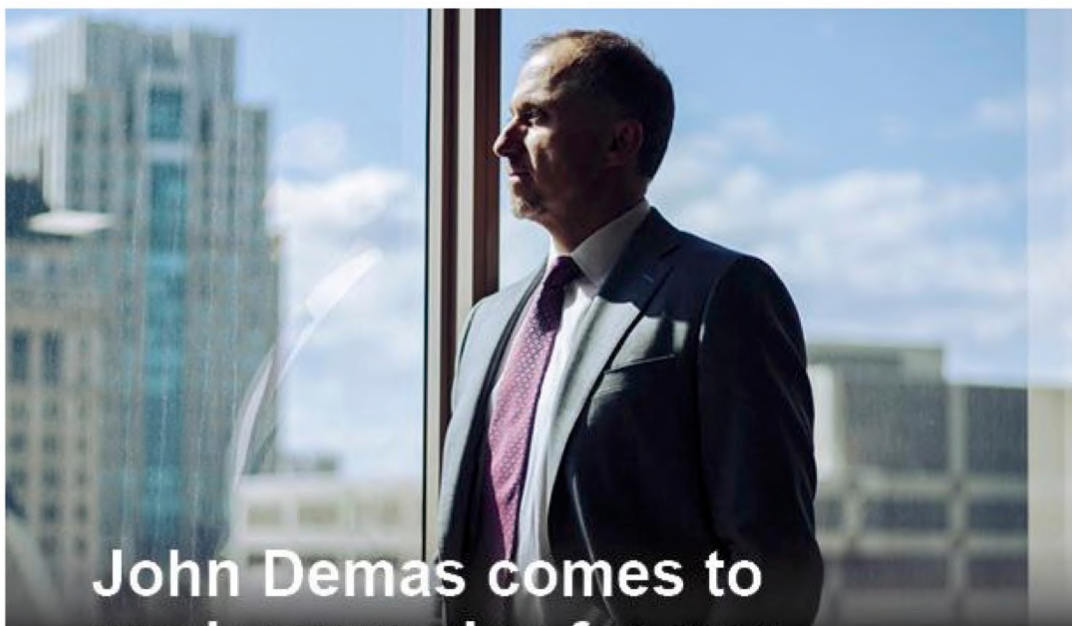
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Observer Ad Rates Bi-Monthly Rev 2019		
<u>Ad Size</u>	<u>Monthly</u>	<u>Annual</u>
Full Page	150.00	750.00
Half-Page	80.00	400.00
Quarter Page	45.00	200.00
Business Card	25.00	100.00
Back Page (Outside 1/2 page)	95.00	Not Available



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**Indicate Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church as the Organization
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Within a few days a dispatcher will call you to schedule an at home
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proceeds will be sent to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Items that can be picked up, working or not:

All Televisions - Video Games - Computers - Fax Machines -
Calculators - Printers - Copiers - Telephones (all types) - Vacuum Cleaners -
Small Appliances - Stereo Systems - Medical Equipment - and Much More!

Proceeds Benefit the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

Thank You!!



Annunciation Community Corner

Want to wish someone happy birthday, graduation, anniversary, etc?
Choose your ad size (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 Church Office at (916) 443-2033 ext 222



Looking for an easy way to help out our Church?
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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! Follow this link to sign up for AmazonSmile

http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas

After creating your account: On your first visit to Smile.Amazon.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 Annunciation, 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 Church Office at 916.443.2033**



**The Greek Orthodox Church
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