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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome into the church:
Kabel Megos, son of Tesfatsion-Megos Tewelde & Rigat Okbazghi Gebrenigus
Sevasti Christina, daughter of John Makely, Jr. & Christina Lappas
Spiridon, son of George Vrame & Alexis Heinzer

We celebrate the marriage of:
Brian Hunt & Antonia Gianulias
Amanuel Tesfamariam & Selemawit Woldemicael
Timothy Yassa & Jasmine Franco
Arman Bet-Yonan & Kristina Hill

We pray for the servants of God who departed this life:
Antigoni Marcos
Maria Kaufman
Demosthenis Saris
JoAnne Horrell

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Sunday Bulletin
Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

This Week at Annunciation Email
Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

Bi-Monthly Observer
December 10th to Observer@annunciationsac.org

The Annunciation Observer | November/December 2023
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 3</td>
<td>Paraklesis to the Theotokos 6:00pm</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Anointing from Hawaii’s Myrrh-Streaming Iveron Icon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 5</td>
<td>Fifth Sunday of Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 9</td>
<td>St. Nektarios the Wonderworker</td>
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<td>Sunday, November 12</td>
<td>Eighth Sunday of Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, November 13</td>
<td>St. John Chrysostom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 19</td>
<td>Ninth Sunday of Luke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, November 21</td>
<td>Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 24</td>
<td>Great Vespers at St. Katherine’s at Elk Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, November 25</td>
<td>Feast of St. Katherine at Elk Grove</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, November 26</td>
<td>Thirteenth Sunday of Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday, November 30</td>
<td>St. Andrew the First-Called Apostle</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 3</td>
<td>Fourteenth Sunday of Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, December 6</td>
<td>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 10</td>
<td>Tenth Sunday of Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, December 12</td>
<td>St. Spyridon the Wonderworker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 15</td>
<td>St. Eleftherios the Martyr</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 17</td>
<td>Eleventh Sunday of Luke</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday, December 22</td>
<td>Great Hours of Christmas 10:00am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 24</td>
<td>Sunday Before Christmas</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Great Vesper of the Nativity 7:00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday, December 25</td>
<td>The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday, December 31</td>
<td>Sunday After Nativity</td>
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</table>

Unless otherwise noted, all services begin with Matins at 9:00am, followed by the Divine Liturgy.
Beloved,

For Presvytera Marsha and me, there are some markers that signal the beginning of the Advent Season. We do love this time of year. Autumn. Cooler temperatures. One of the markers, and perhaps this is trivial, is the appearance of cranberries in the markets. Cranberries are not available, except frozen, the rest of the year. I make my own delicious cranberry sauce. Pumpkin pie. I love pumpkin pie. I am less enthusiastic about other pumpkin products. I do not order “Pumpkin Spice Lattes” at coffee shops. Sorry. I actually like the taste of coffee! Christmas around the World! Saturday, November 11. We host a number of Orthodox and “Byzantine Rite” Churches in our Hellenic Center. They bring food, things to sell, and good cheer. What a wonderful way to begin the Advent season.

Give Thanks: The Church begins this Advent Season with the Advent Fast on November 15, the week before Thanksgiving, and yes, we keep the Fast, but for us Americans, one of the signals of Advent is the American Feast of Thanksgiving. I am always grateful to those who instituted this national observance. Thanksgiving is essentially Christian. The Psalms exhort us over and over to “Give thanks to the Lord.” The Apostle Paul writes: “Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.” (Philippians 4:6) God is very good to us. Our lives, our prayers should include giving thanks to God for His many gracious blessings, as well as thanking those around us who have helped us. By the way, the Church gives us “oikonomia” to break the fast and eat guilt-free turkey on Thanksgiving! Or, if you are vegetarians, like us, more fish. And homemade cranberry sauce. And pumpkin pie.

Fast: The Church invites us to fast before the Feast of Advent during November and December. The fast is far more relaxed than Lent. Fish is allowed on most days except Wednesdays and Fridays (usually strict fast days anyway). The fast gets stricter after December 12. The problem is, of course, that most of us are invited to “Holiday” parties where it is hard to fast. Can you tell your host ahead of time that you are eating vegetarian? There are lots of vegetarians and vegans out there these days. Most people gladly make exceptions.

Why do we persist in this practice? What do we hope to accomplish? Orthodox fasting is not self-punishment. During fasting seasons it is just more of what we observe nearly every week when we keep a vegan fast on Wednesday and Friday. We are not trying to earn points with God or impress other people. God is not impressed with our ascetical efforts. Just as the Gospel is only good news for sinners who repent, so fasting is only an effective tool for sinners who fast. Through it we humble ourselves, submit to a discipline (very important!), and cooperate with God’s grace to learn self-control. I am not sure about you, but I need self-control! Talk to your kids about fasting and get them involved with you. You set the example and invite them to participate. If you fast, those cookies will taste even better on Christmas day!

Love: What is the Season of Advent truly about? It is a celebration of God’s love. “God so loved the world that He gave his unique Son to us!” (John 3:16) God teaches us what love is: It is a commitment to benefit someone else. It is giving. Besides all of God’s gifts to us, His gift to us humans is ultimately Himself. How do we honor this feast? Giving presents to one another is fine. But the Lord reminds us that giving to people and expecting something in return shows little virtue: “If you love only those who love you, what reward is there for that? Even corrupt tax collectors do that much. If you are kind only to your friends, how are you different from anyone else? Even pagans do that.” (Matthew 5) The Lord then goes on to exhort us to give to those who cannot give back, to lend expecting nothing in return, to go above and beyond the norm in generosity.
This season of “giving” really calls us to put our thankfulness into action by getting our eyes off ourselves. To whom should we give? To God! We give to God by supporting His work in this world, by giving, first, to His Church. And we honor God by giving to those truly in need. So, exchange some presents. Be moderate! But besides this, as a family, set aside some money to give to God and to charity. Invite your children to participate in this with their money, allowance, etc. IOCC. They are working in Ukraine. Philoptochos. If you know someone who is struggling financially, you could become a “secret Santa” for them. It works better if you give them something in such a way that they are not embarrassed. The point is that you are trying to tell someone that you care about them. You are expressing love. No expectation of any recompense. This could be a family project, and you will be amazed by the spiritual benefits.

Pray: And finally, let us, in these increasingly troubled times, pray for peace. At Christ’s glorious birth in a humble cave, the angels announce to the shepherds: “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” (Luke 2:14) At every service in our Church, we pray for peace. When the world seems relatively peaceful, we might take this for granted. But not right now. Let us pray every day for peace in this world. Let us pray for an end to the scandalous war in Ukraine, for an end to the hostilities between Israel and the Palestinians. Let us pray that people around us and around the world will hear and believe the Gospel of Peace, the Good News about the birth of our Savior.

Give thanks, fast, love God and others, pray. Once again, prepare your heart to receive the King of Glory, the God of the Universe, Who comes to us in humility and obscurity, the ultimate expression of God’s love for us. By the way, if you want my recipe for cranberry sauce, I will be happy to share it. Simple. Here’s a hint: Grand Marnier!

Fr. Timothy
Dear Parishioners of Annunciation,

In early October, the Sacramento Greek Festival celebrated its 60th Anniversary. I think it may have been the best Festival ever, from the quality of the food to the happiness of the crowd. More than 10,000 people attended this year!

Watching the Annunciation dancers perform was a great joy, from the little ones to the adult group. They lingered into the evening, continuing to sing and dance with friends and family of all ages. This is truly what it’s all about, and why we all work so hard to put on an amazing Festival. We are sharing our beautiful faith and culture, not only with the Sacramento community, but with our children and the next generation.

I want to extend a very special thank you to the Festival Chairs, Stefanie Hionis and Dan Eriksson. They spend countless hours away from their families and their jobs to plan the event each year. We are extremely blessed to have these incredible individuals who remain calm as they take on great challenges. I also want to thank each booth chair for their dedication and hard work. Our chairs take great pride in their booths and their departments, and it shows in the compliments we receive from our guests.

I’d like to express my deepest gratitude to all of our Festival volunteers, our dancers, their parents, directors and our guests. Each and every one of you has contributed to making the Festival a great success. In my opinion, it is the best Greek Festival on the West Coast!

This year was bittersweet for me. We were missing one of our most dedicated volunteers, my brother George Dariotis. After spending many years working in the kitchen with him, it was difficult not to have him by my side. I would like to thank the Festival Chairs and our church community for honoring his memory at the end of the Festival. Christine and I were deeply touched.

With gratitude,

Michael Dariotis Jr.
Parish Council President
Time, Talent, Treasure

God is generous and kind. He gives us so much, yet to whom much is given, we also know that much is expected (Luke 12:48). We remember in the parable of the bags of gold (Matthew 25:14-46) that we are called to use our gifts (whether money, skills, time, energy, education, intellect, strength, or influence) for good in this world. We are called to do the best we can, with what we have been given. But in this parable, there was one servant who chose to bury his talent in the ground, as an illustration to us of using our God given gifts for earthly pursuits (keeping them for ourselves, idleness, or letting our gifts be bound by fear or failure, worry about what others may think of us, or a fear of the hard work and responsibility involved in using them). But when we use our gifts, we know that it is pleasing to God and we are given more. So, not only do we need to be sure that our God given gifts are not going to waste or bound by earthly cares, but also that our work in this world, the use of our gifts must come from the heart and be an act of love.

After all, all of Christianity comes down to how we use our gifts to love God and to love others. Jesus tells us that the greatest commandment we have been given is to love God and secondly, to love others (Matthew 22:36-40). Therefore, we must aim to use our gifts and to do all things, out of a place of love. Love outshines every gift from knowledge to influence and even our unique skills and abilities. Things done without love, profit us nothing. So today, consider how well you are using your gifts, and consider how often you use your gifts from a place of love. How do we know if we are acting out of love? Remember to filter all you are doing through 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8; “Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”

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BELIEVE, BELONG, BE LOVED

The joy of believing comes from believing in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty, and trust.

The joy of belonging comes from becoming practicing stewards by being responsible caretakers of His House of Worship and lovingly participating in the life of His Church.

The joy of being loved comes from experiencing the love of God and the love we have for one another in our faith community.

Become a 2023 Steward at www.tiny.cc/stewardship2023
Philoptochos News

2023 Holiday Food Drive

When Philoptochos sees hunger, we aspire to offer sustenance. Once again this year, our Philoptochos is supporting the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services organization to help eliminate hunger in our community and ensure there will be food on every table this Thanksgiving and Christmas. Our goal is to provide 7,000 or more meals to those in need this holiday season. Please help end hunger in our community by donating to this worthy cause. Every dollar donated, yes just $1, helps provide five meals for local families. Donations can be mailed to the church office or can be left at church on Sundays. Please make checks payable to Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos and include a note on the memo line of your check designating your donation to “Feed the Hungry”.

Thank you for your generosity and continued support.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Wright at (916) 747-5359.

Christmas Around the World

Don’t forget to mark your calendars for the Christmas Around the World Festival on Saturday, November 11th (please refer to the flyer). This one-day event, which Philoptochos has participated in for over twenty five years, brings together churches from all over our area. Come enjoy a delicious selection of Armenian, Ethiopian, Greek, Middle Eastern, Russian, and Ukrainian foods and pastries.

In addition to our food booth, we will also have a treasure/rummage table. Donations for the treasure/rummage table are gratefully being accepted. Please bring any treasures that you are able to part with to church on Sunday, November 5 or Thursday, November 9. If you have any questions, please contact Toni Chapralis at (916) 455-3289 or Helen Grammatikakis at (916) 607-1627.

Proceeds from the sales at our Philoptochos food booth and treasure/rummage table help support the Annunciation Benevolent Fund.

Pie Raffle

With the holidays quickly approaching, our lives tend to become quite busy and at times stressful. Why not let Philoptochos help take some of the burden off your shoulders? On Sunday, November 19th, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will be having our annual pie raffle. Come purchase a ticket for your favorite pies, and perhaps you will be the winner of some dessert goodness; and just in time for Thanksgiving too!
Homeless Ministry

As the leaves turn color and slowly dance their way to the ground, it gives me pause to think about all the wonderful blessings that have been bestowed upon us. Unfortunately, not everyone can take that time. Sadly, there are those in our local community who are struggling to survive, living on the streets and for some, fighting the demons that lie within. In our effort to answer God’s call to help those in need, Philoptochos is initiating our Homeless Ministry and teaming with HOPE Cooperative (a local private, non-profit agency that provides behavioral health and supportive housing services to the unhoused community) to provide some consistently needed basic supplies. Please help by dropping off any of the following supplies in the barrels located in the hall foyer:

• Bath towels—these can be used, but must have life left and no holes
• Washcloths
• New Socks
• New Underwear, any size
• Cleaning Products—Clorox wipes, spray, paper towels
• Travel Size Hygiene Kits—shampoo, conditioner, body wash, lotion, hand sanitizer, toothbrush, toothpaste, chapstick, sunscreen.

For additional information or questions please contact Linda Hakala at Philoptochos@annunciationsac.org

Educational Initiatives & Seminars

Human Trafficking Forum

The Philoptochos Society in association with the Jenna McKay Foundation hosted a Human Trafficking Forum on Sunday, September 24, 2023. Jenna McKay, Human Trafficking Victims Advocate, spoke about her history as a victim and joined the panelists during the discussion and audience exchange.

The panel included Allison Boos, Special Agent, Federal Bureau of Investigations; William Fry, Detective, Special Investigations Bureau, Sacramento Sheriff Department; Christina Trujillo, Detective, Sacramento Police Department; Faith Whitmore, CEO, Sacramento Family Justice Center, and Jenna McKay, Founder, Jenna McKay Foundation.

The specific topics focused on defining types of human trafficking, discussing and identifying who can be victims, and looking at trauma informed and victim centered care. For those who may want to receive further information, the State of California Department of Justice suggests, among others, the following sites: https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en/statistics and https://humantraffickinghotline.org/state/california.

Many thanks to Helen Nickolson for her tireless efforts in bringing this educational forum together.

If you, or someone you know, is a victim of sex trafficking and are in need of help, call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center at 1-888-373-7888 or the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center at 1-844-664-7233.
Human Trafficking Forum

Dial-a-Baklava

Are you invited to a holiday potluck and need to bring a scrumptious dessert? Are you hosting a holiday meal at your home and need the perfect dessert to complete the meal? Well, Philoptochos can help you with that. Our bakers are busy preparing baklava, melomakarona, kourambiethes and paximathia that are a delicious addition to any holiday table; not to mention a wonderful treat to simply have at home and enjoy. Please contact Toula Delis at (916) 745-5022 or Despina Demas at despinademas@outlook.com for pricing information and/or to place an order.

Your Donations at Work

For many years, the Annunciation Parish has contributed to Philoptochos causes, including our annual backpack and children’s coat drives and various relief efforts to help those in need. Thanks to your generous support, last year, we provided 120 backpacks to John Sloat Elementary School and 75 coats to children attending Mustard Seed School.

Leataata Floyd Elementary School. This year we were able to provide backpacks filled with school supplies to 120 children at Leataata Floyd Elementary School. Most of the student body lives in the public housing complex across the street from the school. Leataata Floyd lived in the same housing complex for over 40 years. She was a beloved member of the community, advocating for the improvement of the housing complex, helping to coach, mentor and volunteer her time at the school for the neighborhood children. One hundred percent of the student body comes from low-income households.

The Maui Wildfires. In August 2023, a series of wildfires burned on Maui. The area hardest hit was Lahaina, with much of the town being reduced to ashes and ruins. Shops and restaurants that attracted tourism were destroyed, making recovery a struggle. Thanks to your contributions, we were able to collect $200, which was then donated to the IOCC for the Maui Wildfire Fund. Your donations will help Lahaina and those who live and work there.

For each of these worthy causes and many others, we have requested your assistance, whether it be to donate jackets, food, or make a monetary donation at coffee hour, and you have always responded positively to our requests. Although our budget provides base funding amounts for our many charitable causes, the need is much greater than we can provide for on our own. Each and every donation we receive, no matter how big or small, helps enable Philoptochos to provide extra help for our charities.
Thank you, Annunciation Parish, for your support of Philoptochos in our continuing efforts to provide assistance to those in need. We are forever grateful to you.

Best Wishes

On behalf of the Annunciation Philoptochos Board, I would like to wish you and your family a very Happy Thanksgiving and a Blessed Nativity.

Despina Demas, President
Annunciation Philoptochos
Our Festival hit 60 years due to the wonderful volunteers at our great parish: Young & Young at Heart. Those there at the start and others here for their first time. And every single one in between. We, as Greeks, pride ourselves on our φιλοξενία (philoxenia) and our festival is the prime way we demonstrate it. On Sunday, via the Festival’s Facebook page, we received the following messages from one of our Saturday guests.

Sure, our Festival is major fundraiser for the parish, but really, this is why we do what we do. To share our love of our culture, our faith, our fellowship, our φιλοξενία. Thank you for your participation and support.

Many people have sent me messages of the “congratulations on a wonderful festival” variety and I thank them on your behalf. A great number of people play a role in the execution of the Festival and to them I say, “Thank you! Thank you on behalf of the entire Annunciation parish for throwing an excellent 60th Greek Festival!”

Eternally Thankful,

Stefanie Hionis for the 2023 Greek Festival Board
Thank you to our 2023 Festival Chairpeople!
We appreciate your hard work and dedication!

**Festival Board**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Co-Chairs</th>
<th>Dan Eriksson, Stefanie Hionis</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Members</td>
<td>Emily Coleman, George Chuchas, Michael Dariotis, Chris Georgoulas, Helen Grammatikakis, Julie Mamalis, Demetri Romas</td>
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**Pre-Festival Activities Chairpersons**

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<tr>
<th>Décor &amp; Hellenica</th>
<th>Julie Mamalis</th>
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<tr>
<td>Design &amp; Contracting</td>
<td>Dan Eriksson</td>
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<td>Donations</td>
<td>Michael Dariotis, Gerri Magers</td>
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<td>Graphic Design</td>
<td>Nikiforos Kalounitzos</td>
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<td>Planning</td>
<td>Stefanie Hionis</td>
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<td>Public Relations &amp;</td>
<td>Koundouros, Sandra</td>
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<td>Social Media</td>
<td>Kordazakis</td>
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<td>Manuel Tsiblas, Demetre Fotos</td>
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<td>Transportation &amp; Parking</td>
<td>Stefanie Hionis</td>
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<td>Vendor Relations</td>
<td>Christos Fotopoulos</td>
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<td>Website</td>
<td>Stefanie Hionis</td>
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</tbody>
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**Overall Food Chairperson** Helen Grammatikakis

**Individual Food Chairpersons:** Helen Grammatikakis, Faye Vallas, Donna Wagner, Kate Margaris, Maria Sampanis, Emily Coleman, Stefanie Hionis, Marika Tsardoulas, Maria Verrios, Antonia Chapralis

**Set Up/Breakdown**

| Planning & Execution | Dan Eriksson |

**Festival Event Chairpersons**

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<tr>
<th>Admissions</th>
<th>Emily Coleman, Dallas Calmes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Annunciation Bookstore</td>
<td>Stephanie Bobolis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Church Tours</td>
<td>Father James Retelas, Father Timothy Robinson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Entertainment Manager</td>
<td>Nicole Pikios</td>
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<td>Clover Guru</td>
<td>W. Nicholas Rotas</td>
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<td>Estiatorio</td>
<td>Gary Leonard, Irina Rebegeanu, Manuel Tsiblas</td>
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<td>Festival Souvenirs Booth</td>
<td>Christina Chuchas, Eleni Crush, Katherine Rotas</td>
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<td>Food Demos</td>
<td>Katina Bostanzoglou, Kristen Kane, Maria Sampanis</td>
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<td>Grill</td>
<td>Periklis Kalounitzos</td>
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<td>Miltos Apostolidis, Nick Avdis, Chris Georgoulas, Demetri Romas</td>
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<td>Heritage Panels &amp; Art</td>
<td>Demetre Fotos</td>
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<td>Horiatiiki Salata</td>
<td>Jim Chuchas</td>
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<td>Anastasios &amp; Stefanie Hionis</td>
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<td>Kitchen Managers</td>
<td>George Chuchas, Michael Dariotis</td>
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<td>Loukoumathes</td>
<td>Yiota Makris, Francine Curtis-Smith, Vivian Vail</td>
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<td>MC</td>
<td>Tim Hayes</td>
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<td>Meze</td>
<td>Chris &amp; Kristen Kane</td>
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<td>Office</td>
<td>George Asimakopoulos, George Chuchas, Anna Nikolaou, Dianna Tsiblas</td>
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<td>Pandopoleon</td>
<td>Nicki Vories Hansen, Pres. Barbara Retelas, Elaine Wright</td>
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<td>Raffle</td>
<td>Bill Triphon</td>
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<td>Runners</td>
<td>Ryan Coleman</td>
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<td>Saganaki</td>
<td>Dan Eriksson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taverna</td>
<td>George Anastasopoulos, Christine Dariotis, Peter Fotopoulos, Takis Fotopoulos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Volunteer Manager</td>
<td>Emily Coleman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zaharoplastion</td>
<td>Helen Grammatikakis, Joanna Sampanis</td>
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Thank you to our 2023 Festival Sponsors, Donors, & Underwriters!
We appreciate your support!

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- John & Mary Kyriakides
- Elias & Jane Bardis
- Old Spaghetti Factory / Dussin Family

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- **Kafenion:** PV AMPS
- **Loukoumades:** The Willow Ballroom & Event Center
- **Meze Booth:** Magers/Kane Families
- **Raffle Booth:** Terry Kastanis
- **Zaharoplateon:** Charis Consulting

**BRONZE SPONSORS**
- George Koufasimis & Loula Kufasimis
- Bertakis-Spyridakis Family
- General Produce
- Boudin Bakery
- Solutions West
- Nicholas Docous & Laura Knauss
- Helen Grammatikakis

**PEARL SPONSORS**
- Scribner Bend Vineyards
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- Lind Brothers Funeral Home
- Nicoletti, Culjis & Herberger Funeral Home
- Avdis & Cucchi, LLP
- Niko & Nikki Avdis
- Dale Manolakas and Roy Shults
- Helen Nickolson & Larry Michel
- Manuel & Dianna Tsiblas
- Costa & Victoria Dimitriadis
- Dale Tzikas
- Marshall Pryor
- Nicholas & Carol Rotas
- Ralph & Vassie Sett
- Tyke & Dena Kuchulis
- Pinelopi Xenoudi, in memory of George Xenoudis
- InterState Oil Company
- Geoffrey & Antonia Antipa
- Roxie Deli

**FRIENDS OF THE FESTIVAL**
- Alex & Koula Kokologiannakis
- Aliki Lyons
- Althea & Fred Tatarakis
- Andrew & Daniela Schmidt & Family
- Angelina & Sophie Genigeorgis
- Anne & Kallias Manolakas
- Anonymous
- Art & Terre Terzakis
- Bess Kerhoulas
- Bill Evrigenis & Family
- Boorinakis Harper Ranch
- Chris & Angie Georgoulis
- Christina Freeworth
- Dan & Katherine Ballas
- Dariotis/Petrucci Family, in memory of John Dariotis
- Demetre, Dimitra & Dino Haralambakis
- Demetri & Malamo Romas
- Efstratios Vourakas
- Father James Retelas
- Gary & Irina Leonard
- George & Christina Chuchas
- George & Mary Ellen Kassotakis
- George Asimakopoulos & Anna Nikolaou
- Georgia Econome
- Gerti Magers
- Helen Gianakakis
- Hofioni Family
- Howard & Stella Norris
- In memory of Steven James Tingus
- Irene DeKellis
- Ivana Krstic
- James & Robin Kafouros
- Jim & Dessi Chuchas
- Jim & Faye Vallas
- Joann Georgallis
- Joanna Sampanis
- John & Edith Hagelis
- John Hagelis
- Julie Mamalis
- Katherine Marefos
- Katherine Sampanis
- Kathleen Manolakas
- Klostrakis Family
- Kristen Kane
- Louis & Georgia Grivetti
- Maria Workman
- Mary Dokimos Lydon
- Nica & Jon Gianulis
- Nicholas Wilk
- Nicholos & Carol Rotas
- Nick & Jeanne Efstratis
- Nick Kamilos, in Memory of Andrena
- Nick The Greek
- Nitsa Dariotis
- Pauline Cazanis
- Pearl Thomas
- Rev. Fr. Timothy & Pres. Marsha Robinson
- Sacramento AHEPA Chapter
- Sophia Evrigenis
- Spyro & Georgia Avdis
- Stefanie & Anastasios Hionis
- Stella Dariotis & Mike Petrucci
- Steve & Kate Marginis
- Sylvia Martinas, in Memory of Tino Manus
- Ted & Georgia Avdalas
- The Bobolis Family
- Theodoridis-Gutshall Family
- Vasilis & Judy Verrios
- Vougioukas Family
- Voula Cazanis
Tim & Antonia Chapralis celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 6, 2023 with a blessing from Fr. Timothy.
SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL
Please join us in congratulating our Annunciation Volleyball program on a great season! Four teams (two young adult and town adult) competed in the St. Nicholas Volleyball Tournament in San Jose.
News from the Fr. Demetrius Dogias Parish Library

Brief Facts

PURPOSE: To preserve and archive the print and digital, religious, historic, cultural, and ethnic resources of the parish.

• Lucille Vlahos established the library in 1971 as a resource for Sunday School teachers.

• The collection was moved to its current location in October, 2016.

• Terry Kastanis served as the parish librarian (Hartophylax) from 2007 until June, 2022. Antonia Chapralis was appointed librarian/archivist in July, 2022.

• The collection consists of nearly 2,000 cataloged items which are arranged by the Dewey Decimal System.

• In addition to religious books, the library contains publications from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, books of fiction, Greek history and travel, cookbooks, children’s books, and books by local authors.

• Parish archives, e.g. Sunday School or Food Festival, are arranged by the ministry or parent organization. There are over 1,500 items in this collection.

• An extensive family photo collection, along with the Eugene Fotos collection, resides in our library.

• Long range plans include collaboration with the newly formed Annunciation Historical Society in order to digitize the collection, host relevant parish activities, and produce material of interest to our community.

• An on-line catalog of the collection is accessible on the internet by accessing the parish home page, annunciationsac.org.

Books can be checked out!

Here’s a book you might be interested in…

“I Am a Greek Orthodox” is a children’s book written by Maria Roussou and narrated by Panos Papanicholas, an 11-year-old boy in London. This simple book for younger children clarifies what one will experience while attending church. It explains our faith and the Divine Liturgy, as well as our traditions. The chart of “The Orthodox Year” is an easy-to-grasp overview of our church calendar.

Yes, it’s simple but in addition to learning basic facts about our Greek Orthodox faith, children will be able to relate what they see in this story to their own lives. So, check it out!
Come join us! The Bridge Dominoes Group meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month in the Annunciation Hellenic Center 10:30am–2:00pm for game playing fun and fellowship. We have a no-host lunch break with a yummy dessert provided by the host for the month. Some experience is needed for Bridge. We will teach you our version of Mexican Train Dominoes within a few hands. No experience needed! No stress—just fun! For more information contact Sophia Evrigenis for Bridge and Liz Dokimos for Dominoes. Cell phone numbers are in the Church Directory or email:

Sophia Evrigenis: sophiage@sbcglobal.net, Liz Dokimos: lizdokimos@comcast.net.
PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

FOUR POSITIONS OPEN
THREE-YEAR TERM BEGINNING JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023
VOTING TO TAKE PLACE IN PERSON
FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY IN THE
FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

VOTING WILL CLOSE AT 3PM

Our parish Board of Elections Committee is responsible for seeking dedicated, quality candidates to serve and strengthen our church. If you would like to run for office, please contact any member of the parish Board of Elections Committee.

Applications will be accepted up until 6pm on November 20, 2023 and can be provided to any member of the election committee either in person or by email.

Candidate’s must:
  • Be a parishioner in good standing for at least one year.
  • Have been Baptized/Chrismated into the Orthodox Christian Tradition.
  • Live their life in accordance with the Faith and Canons of the Church.
  • Be 18 years of age or older.
  • Be current in their stewardship and other financial obligations to the Church.
  • Cooperate in every way towards the welfare and well-being of the Parish.

Board of Elections Committee Members:
  • Nicholas Rotas, Ph (916) 660-6868 nrotas1@mac.com
  • Jim Chuchas, Ph (916) 838-3709, jchuchas@att.net
  • Vanessa Kassotakis, Ph (314) 973-7830, vanessas201@gmail.com
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Liturgy Chants Workshop at Holy Cross Monastery.</td>
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<td>9:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Liturgy Chants Workshop at Holy Cross Monastery.</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>9:00 AM to 12:00 PM: Liturgy Chants Workshop at Holy Cross Monastery.</td>
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**Notes:**

- Schedule subject to change.
- Contact the Church office for updates.
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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<th>Wednesday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fourteenth Sunday of Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</td>
<td>11:30am ASL Luncheon</td>
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<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
<td>10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
<td>10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tenth Sunday of Lake</td>
<td></td>
<td>St. Spyridon the Wonderworker</td>
<td>9:00am Philoptochos Baking</td>
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<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
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<td>Parish Council Elections</td>
<td>Observer Article Duo</td>
<td>St. Philoptochos General Meeting</td>
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<td>Eleventh Sunday of Lake</td>
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<td>St. Eleutherios the Martyr</td>
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<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
<td>10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
<td>10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<td>Last Day to Purchase Sacraments Kings Game Tickets</td>
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<td>Choir Christmas Concert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Eve</td>
<td></td>
<td>9:00am Philoptochos Baking</td>
<td>10:00am Great Hours of Christmas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday Before Christmas</td>
<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
<td>10:00am Divine Liturgy</td>
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<tr>
<td>7:00pm Great Vesper of the Nativity</td>
<td>No Sunday School Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ</td>
<td>10:30am Bridge-Dominoes Group Meeting</td>
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<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
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<td>Sunday After Nativity</td>
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<td>9:00am Orthros</td>
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<td>No Sunday School Class</td>
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Epistle Reading Program

The Epistle Reading Program is open to our parish youth (ages 10+) and is a wonderful opportunity for our children to take part in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, and serve our community!

Please register and select reading dates at the link below. A confirmation will be emailed, along with the reading(s) for the selected date(s). Assistance is available to prepare new readers. Readers are needed every Sunday.

Please contact Nicki Hansen at nhansen@annunciationsac.org with questions.

tiny.cc/epistlereaders

SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL
Building a solid foundation for Christian education and formation.

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN FOR THE 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR
Register at tiny.cc/sundayschool23

NURSERY-5TH GRADE
Class begins at 10am.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL
Students lead our youth in classroom lessons and activities beginning at 10am. The Middle School and High School lessons begin following Holy Communion.

Please contact sundayschool@annunciationsac.org with questions
SUNDAY SCHOOL

THANKSGIVING LUNCH
FOR STUDENTS

Sunday, November 19
Following Holy Communion

Annunciation
Hellenic Center Foyer

Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 10

Immediately Following the Divine Liturgy

Annunciation
Greek Orthodox Church
DANCE SUPPORT GROUP

ANNUNCIATION DSG
BAKLAVA SUNDAES
& FRAPPÉS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12
IN THE FOYER
FOLLOWING LITURGY

BAKLAVA SUNDAES - $5
VANILLA ICE CREAM
WITH BAKLAVA CRUMBLIES

FRAPPÉ - $5

ALL PROCEEDS TO
BENEFIT THE
ANNUNCIATION DANCE
PROGRAM

BAKLAVA GENEROUSLY
DONATED BY
NICK THE GREEK
Greek Dance Coffee Fundraiser

Help us raise funds for our dance program: handmade costumes from Greece, musicians, and workshops.

Order from November 1st – 30th
"Pick up December 3rd"

Get your Custom Coffee Bags Today!
$22.50 each

Scan the QR code to place your order

www.valiantcoffee.com/products/annunciation-fundraiser
Team Nick Voresis is back for an eleventh year of participation in Sacramento’s Run to Feed the Hungry. Over the past ten years, Team Nick Voresis has raised over 63,000 meals for Sacramento families in need. Join the team and make a difference in our community!

ABOUT RUN TO FEED THE HUNGRY

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

WHEN
Thanksgiving morning - Thursday, November 23, 2023 — Rain or Shine!
10K - 8:15am • 5K - 9am

WHERE
The event features a loop course that 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

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 nhansen@annunciationsac.org for additional details and team codes
• Visit www.RunToFeedTheHungry.com
• Click REGISTER
• Click SIGN IN to create an account or enter an existing password
• Register using the TEAM MEMBER - ADULT or TEAM MEMBER - YOUTH 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 in the PROMO CODE box at the bottom of the page
• Complete the registration process

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

DONATE
• Visit tiny.cc/teamnick
• 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. See you Thanksgiving Day!

Have questions or need assistance? Contact your Team Captain at nhansen@annunciationsac.org
ANNUNCIATION MOVIE NIGHT

FEATURING

A CRACK IN TIME

APRIL 4TH, 1968. THE KALLIMARMARO STADIUM IS ABUZZ, WITH THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE GATHERED AND MILLIONS LISTENING THROUGH THEIR RADIOS. THE AEK-SLAVIA PRAGUE BASKETBALL GAME HAS JUST BEGUN. AT THE END OF THIS NIGHT, GREEK HISTORY WILL HAVE CHANGED FOREVER.

SATURDAY
NOV 11

FREE ADMISSION
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM
SCREENING BEGINS AT 7:00PM

ANNUNCIATION HELLENIC CENTER

Q & A WITH FILMMAKER & SPECIAL GUEST, TASSOS BOULMETIS
SNACK BAR BY ANNUNCIATION GOYA
CRETAN CRAB FEED
HOSTED BY DIAS SACRAMENTO
PANCRETAN ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

FEATURING LIVE MUSIC FROM CRETE:
KOSTAS KAKOUDAKIS ON LYRA
MIHALIS PETSAKIS ON LAOUTO
MANOULIS VERDINAKIS ON LAOUTO
STELIOS SOMARAKIS ON GUITAR

Annunciation Hellenic Center
SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 2023
616 ALHAMBRA BOULEVARD
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816

TICKETS: $80 PER PERSON | $25 FOR CHILDREN 6-12
FREE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 5 | $25 AFTER 10PM

Purchase Tickets Online: https://sacramentocretanscompany.site
Contact Us for Questions or to RSVP: SACRAMENTOCRETANS@GMAIL.COM
or Call Stelios Katzaikis (209) 614-1320
UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR A

VERY MERRY FAMILY NIGHT

MUSIC
GAMES
HOT COCOA
DINNER & DESSERT
TREE DECORATING

FRIDAY DEC 1
5:30pm to 8:30pm
ANNUNCIATION HELLENIC CENTER

TICKETS
ADULTS $10 | CHILDREN $5
tiny.cc/verymerry23

CONTACT NICKI HANSEN WITH QUESTIONS
NHANSEN@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG
UPCOMING EVENTS

GRAB YOUR COWBELLS AND RING IN THE NEW YEAR WITH ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH AND THE SACRAMENTO KINGS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

SACRAMENTO KINGS VS INDIANA PACERS

GAME BEGINS AT 7:00PM

GROUP ENTRY AND LOWER LEVEL WARM-UP EXPERIENCE AT 5:00PM

TICKETS: $48

SPECIAL GROUP PRICING • LIMITED NUMBER OF TICKETS AVAILABLE

ALL TICKET HOLDERS WILL RECEIVE A KINGS SHIRT OR SCRAF AT GAME SECTION 222, ROWS A & B • TAXES & FEES WILL APPLY

PURCHASE TICKETS AT WWW.KINGSGROUPS.COM/AGOC

BY DECEMBER 16

CONTACT NICKI HANSEN FOR MORE INFORMATION • NHANSEN@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG
PARISH PHOTOS • FALL AT ANNUNCIATION

Backpack Blessings • September 10, 2023

Ministries Kickoff • September 10, 2023
PARISH PHOTOS • FALL AT ANNUNCIATION

Sunday School • September & October 2023
Oi Apogoni Dancers • October 22, 2023

Halloween Family Night • October 28, 2023
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST
PLEDGED STEWARDS 2023
AS OF 10/31/2023

And our stewards who wish to remain anonymous

Pledged Families: 395

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
$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

OBSERVER AD RATES
Bi-Monthly (Rev 2019)

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Widowed Persons Association of California™, Inc.
Sacramento-Chapter #1

Are you or someone you know widowed?
ALL WIDOWED MEN & WOMEN ARE WELCOME!

- **Sunday Support** - An open forum every Sunday from 3:00 to 5:00 pm.

- **Grief Recovery Workshops** - A series of six workshops offered four times per year. Check our website at [www.sacwidowed.org](http://www.sacwidowed.org) or call (916) 972-9722 for scheduled sessions. Workshops and Sunday Support available to all widows and widowers at **no cost**

- **Social Activities** – Numerous social events and activities available for members! Check our current calendar and membership instructions at [www.sacwidowed.org](http://www.sacwidowed.org)

2628 El Camino Avenue, Suite D-18 (Back Parking/Entrance)

Contact our office at (916) 972-9722
Barbie at (916) 363-3482, Claudia at (916) 722-1552 or Linda at (916) 485-8002
Thinking of buying or selling?

There are many realtors to choose from in Sacramento ... choose someone you can trust!

Local Experts

Experience, Service, Results
50+ combined years of experience

Christine Dariotis
(916) 412-8112
CHRISTINE.DARIOTIS@SOthebysREALTY.com
NICKSADEKSIR.COM
DRE 01173106

Jerry Bringham
DRE 00697566

thorough • diligent • responsive

Sotheby's International Realty
2277 Fair Oaks Boulevard, Suite 460
Sacramento, California • 95825
John Demas comes to work every day for one reason: to level the playing field for his clients.

Smart, tenacious, honest fighters for people who have been injured. One of Sacramento’s most successful personal injury law firms.

PLAINTIFF PERSONAL INJURY ATTORNEYS
916.444.0100  DEMASLAWGROUP.COM
A BILLION Reasons Why I Love Sacramento!

LUXE LIVING
by Kim Pacini Hauch
I ♥ SACRAMENTO

❤ Real Estate Sales of Nearly 1 Billion Dollars!
❤ 35 Fascinating Years of Real Estate Service!
❤ Sacramento County’s #1 Selling Agent & #1 Luxury Agent!
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