

THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

Vol. XLI, Issue IV | Fall 2025



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Vincent Minucci, Presiding Priest | frvincent@annunciationsac.org Rev. Fr. Timothy Robinson, Associate Priest | frtimothy@annunciationsac.org

616 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95816 Office: (916) 443-2033 | Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm www.annunciationsac.org



PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

CLERGY

Fr. Vincent Minucci, Presiding Priest frvincent@annunciationsac.org

Fr. Timothy Robinson, Associate Priest frtimothy@annunciationsac.org

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Michael Dariotis miked.osf@gmail.com

PARISH MINISTRIES

Bookstore

Cynthia Siokos (916) 231-9949 bookstore@annunciationsac.org

Choir

Jamie Bobolis, Choir Director bobolis@gmail.com

Dance Support Group & Ministry Stefanie Manolakas Mizner, President dance@annunciationsac.org

Father Demetrius Dogias Parish Library Antonia Chapralis

paraskaki@sbcglobal.net

Greek School

greekschool@annunciationsac.org

Philoptochos Society

Despina Demas, President demasdespina@outlook.com

Annunciation Senior League

George Koumis, President georgekoumis@gmail.com

Sunday School

Emily Liakos, Director sundayschool@annunciationsac.org

STAFF

Office Coordinator

Effie Theodor etheodor@annunciationsac.org

Financial Coordinator

Dianna Tsihlas

accounting@annunciationsac.org

Ministries & Communications Coordinator

Nicki Hansen

nhansen@annunciationsac.org

Facility Use Coordinator

Rula Manikas

events@annunciationsac.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday • 9:00am-4:30pm

THE ANNUNCIATION OBSERVER

Published quarterly for the parishioners of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation in Sacramento, California

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We Welcome Into the Church:

Theodoros Christie, Son of Angelo & Maren, August 29 Chrissa Anastasopoulos, Daughter of George & Alexis, September 27 Sofia Xidias, Daughter of Nicholas & Despina, September 27

We Celebrate the Marriage Of:

George Demas & Nicole Kontos, July 12 Paul Dugan III & Katerina Perakis, September 26

We Pray for the Servants of God Who Departed This Life:

Sotirios Kalafatis, July 10 Helen Paraskevas, July 18

Christos Kondylis, August 13

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

OCTOBER

Sunday, October 5 2nd Sunday of Luke

Sunday, October 12 Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council

Saturday, October 18 St. Luke the Evangelist

Sunday, October 19 3rd Sunday of Luke

Sunday, October 26 6th Sunday of Luke

St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer

Sunday, November 2 5th Sunday of Luke

Saturday, November 8 Synaxis of the Archangels

NOVEMBER

Sunday, November 9 7th Sunday of Luke, St. Nektarios the Wonderworker

Tuesday, November 11 St. Vincent of Saragossa

Wednesday, November 12 Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos

10:00 a.m. Followed by ASL Fellowship

Saturday, November 15 Nativity Fast Begins

Sunday, November 16 Matthew the Apostle and Evangelist

Friday, November 21 Entrance of the Theotokos into the Temple

Sunday, November 23 9th Sunday of Luke

Monday, November 24 Great Vespers at St. Katherine, Elk Grove

Tuesday, November 25 Feast of St. Katherine at St. Katherine, Elk Grove

Sunday, November 30 St. Andrew the First Called

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

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

Thursday, December 4 St. Barbara the Great Martyr

Saturday, December 6 St. Nicholas the Wonderworker

Sunday, December 7 10th Sunday of Luke

Friday, December 12 St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

Sunday, December 14 11th Sunday of Luke

Wednesday, December 17 St. Dionysios of Zakynthos

Sunday, December 21 Sunday Before Nativity

Wednesday, December 24 Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Christmas 6:00pm

Thursday, December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ

Sunday, December 28 Sunday After Nativity

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



CHRIST IS BORN

glorify Him!

JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN WORSHIP TO CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS MORNING

ORTHROS 9:00AM DIVINE LITURGY 10:00AM



PASTORAL MESSAGE

Beloved in the Lord,

As the colors of autumn unfold and the year begins its final turn, the rhythm of the Church calls us to something deeper- to slow down, to give thanks, and to renew our hearts in the presence of Christ. These last months of the year are a sacred bridge between gratitude and hope: we look back on what God has done, and we look forward to what He will yet reveal.

This time of year naturally turns our thoughts to Thanksgiving, not only for the blessings that are easy to see, but also for those quiet mercies that carry us through each day. I am profoundly grateful for the love that fills our Annunciation family- the generosity of our volunteers, the enthusiasm of our youth, the steady devotion of our ministries, and the kindness that defines our parish life.

Every act of service, every candle lit, every prayer whispered in this holy and blessed place adds to the beauty of what we share together in Christ.

With the coming of November, the Church invites us to enter the Nativity Fast. Far from being a burden, this is a time of gentle preparation, a season to make space for the Lord to dwell among us. While the world rushes toward Christmas with noise and distraction, the Church offers us the quiet path of prayer, fasting, and giving. In this way, we become like the shepherds who set aside their fears to follow the angel's song, and like the Theotokos, who received the Word of God with faith and humility. Through small, faithful steps, we too prepare a manger in our hearts where Christ may be born.

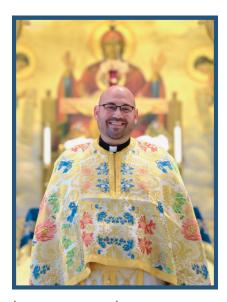
The miracle of Christmas is not only that God came once into the world, but that He continues to come- to be born in us, to transform us, to make our darkness shine. Each time we choose forgiveness over resentment, peace over worry, and generosity over indifference, we proclaim anew: "Christ is born, glorify Him!"

As we prepare to turn the page into 2026, may we do so with hearts renewed by faith and gratitude. The new year will bring its own challenges and blessings, but we face them together—with the strength of our community, the wisdom of our faith, and the love of Christ guiding our steps.

Let us carry forward the joy of the Nativity into every moment of the year ahead, trusting that whatever comes, God's light will continue to lead and sustain us.

With love in Christ,

+ Fr. Vinnie



LETTER FROM THE PARISH COUNCIL

Dear Parish Family,

As the fall season arrives and the ecclesiastical year begins, the air grows cooler, the leaves change, and we begin to look ahead to the rich liturgical life that prepares us for the Nativity of Christ.

This season also brings opportunities for fellowship and service. I want to thank everyone who worked so diligently to make our 62nd Greek Festival a huge success. Your countless hours of baking, cooking, setting up, and welcoming close to 10,000 people reflect the true spirit of Greek Orthodox Christian hospitality. Not only was it a joyful event for our parish, but it also opened our doors to the greater Sacramento community, allowing many to experience our faith and traditions.

As we move forward, I encourage each of you to stay engaged—whether through attending church services, volunteering with our ministries, supporting our youth programs, or simply offering a kind word to a fellow parishioner. Your presence matters. Together, we build a strong parish rooted in love, faith, and unity.

On behalf of the Parish Council, I thank you for your continued support, stewardship, and prayers. May this fall season be one of spiritual growth and renewed commitment for us all.

With love in Christ,

Michael Dariotis Jr.
Parish Council President



STEWARDSHIP

STEWARDSHIP 2025

"Give, and it shall be given unto you."

Luke 6:38



STEWARDSHIP FACTS

Q: DO MY RECURRING STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS ROLLOVER FROM YEAR-TO-YEAR?

A: In past years, recurring stewardship payments have NOT rolled over to the next year and stewards were required to create new pledges and payments at the beginning of the year. For 2025, recurring payments from 2024 will continue on unless stopped by the giver. If you would like to check your 2025 stewardship status or make changes to your recurring payment, please login to your PushPay account at pushpay.com/login or contact the Annunciation Financial Office at accounting@annunciationsac.org.

Q: WHAT DOES MY STEWARDSHIP PAY FOR?

A: In 2025, it will cost approximately \$3,500/day to keep the church open. Most operating expenses are paid from stewardship. Some examples are utilities, office staff and pastoral salaries, candles, permits, security, and facilities maintenance. Additional costs are directly related to church-funded ministries and programs.

Q: I ALREADY PAY FOR GREEK DANCE, GREEK SCHOOL, ETC. WHY DO I HAVE TO ALSO PAY FOR STEWARDSHIP?

A: These programs operate independently from our general operating budget. The church provides the facility, in addition to facility-related expenses, enabling their operation and receives no money from these ministries. It is also important that families participating in our children's ministries be currently pledged stewards.

Make your pledge online at <u>annunciationsac.org/stewardship</u> or return a pledge card to the Church Office



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Sacramento • 616 Alhambra Blvd • Sacramento, CA 95816 • (916) 443-2033

PHILOPTOCHOS



Philoptochos News

Philoptochos' Ecclesiastical Year began September 1, 2025, but our members have been busy throughout the summer electing Board and Executive Board members and collecting funds for backpacks and the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC). Your new 21-member Annunciation Board:

The Executive Board: Despina Demas, President; Nicolette Madrid, First Vice President; Effie Theodor, Second Vice President; Donna Wagner, Recording Secretary; Faye Vallas, Corresponding Secretary; Rula Manikas, Treasurer; Althea Tatarakis, First Asst Treasurer; Alexis Genung, Second Asst Treasurer; Anna Darzins, Social Services

Our Board Members: Elaine Wright (Advisor to Board) and Marika Tsardoulias (Family and Society Representative); Christina Chuchas, Kathy Dokimos, Maria Higdon, Sandra Kordazakis, Ivana Krstic, Julie Mamalis, Angeliki Mavrikou, Stephanie Raptakis, Pearl Thomas, Toula Zogas-Delis

Fundraisers:

In early July, we began requesting monetary donations and school supplies that would benefit over 100 children attending the Leataata Floyd Elementary School. As you can see in the pictures, we needed 2 cars to deliver the backpacks and school supplies! And your generosity has provided enough funds for children attending a school that will soon be announced.







To date, we have collected \$400 for the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) during coffee hour. Their work includes addressing immediate needs and fostering lasting spiritual transformation through the work of their ministries. Please visit their website at OCMC.org to learn how your donations transform lives.

In the next few weeks our calendar of events will be available, and we look forward to our challenges that support our church and help those in need. Thank you for your support of Philoptochos.

ANNUNCIATION BOOKSTORE



BOOKS · ICONS · JEWELRY · CANDLES · BAPTISM ITEMS BABY GIFTS · CHILDREN'S BOOKS · GIFTS & MORE

OPEN EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

Looking for the perfect gift? We have a wonderful new collection of children's books, icons, blankies, and stuffies for baptism or birthday; gold leaf or hand carved icons of Christ, Theotokos, Holy Family, and Hospitality of Abraham; and a great assortment of thoughtful gifts for friends or as hostess gifts.

We are celebrating the completion of icon inventory with 50% off all "cabinet icons". This sale runs through the end of the year. Stop by the bookstore to check the list and find a treasure. Be sure to also check out the Bargain Book cart where you'll find all sorts of good reads for \$1 or \$5 each.

Supporting your bookstore gives back to our parish. To date we have been able to sponsor the information shelf in the Narthex, provide icons for the priests to give at baptisms and weddings, create 40 Day Blessing gift items, and more. Thank you for shopping with us!

Contacts us at bookstore@annunciationsac.org

ANNUNCIATION BRIDGE-DOMINOES GROUP



Annunciation Bridge-Dominoes Group 📙 👺



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:

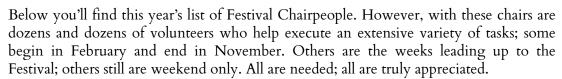
Sophia Evrigenis: sophiage@sbcglobal.net, Liz Dokimos: lizdokimos@comcast.net.



WOW!! Even though we started Festival week with a little rain, we had a wonderful turnout, great weather, and a fantastic 62nd Greek Festival! Our dancers were lovely in their costumes and it brought such a richness to their performances. The foods and pastries were on point! We've heard only positive things; a true testament of our philoxenia.

We extend our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to each and every volunteer who helped make this year's Greek Festival such a wonderful success. Whether you contributed a shift or the entire weekend, your efforts did not go unnoticed. They were deeply appreciated by our fellow parishioners and warmly received by the larger Sacramento community.

From the kitchen to the dance floor, from the cooking canopies to the raffle booth, from behind the scenes to front & center, from setup to cleanup - you made it all possible.





Thank you to all our Festival sponsors, donors, and underwriters. We greatly appreciate your unwavering support. This list is also found below.

An extra special thank you goes to Fr. Vinnie & Presbytera Nadia. In their first year of their Festival tenure, they made the rounds, rolled up their sleeves and helped out in a number of booths. So many of our guests loved being greeted by Fr. Vinnie as they entered our festival grounds!

Eternally thankful,

Stefanie Hionis & Chris Georgoulias, 2025 Sac Greek Festival Co-Chairs for the 2025 Festival Executive Board: George Chuchas, Emily Coleman, Michael Dariotis, Dan Eriksson, Helen Grammatitakis, Julie Mamalis, & Demetri Romas





Sacramento Greek Festival Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

THURSDAY, November 6TH at 6:00pm

at the Annunciation Hellenic Center (616 Alhambra)

Please RSVP by 11/3 calling the Church Office at (916) 443-2033 x221



Thank you to our 2025 Festival Chairpersons!

Festival Executive Board

Co-Chairs Chris Georgoulias, Stefanie Hionis

Members Emily Coleman, George Chuchas, Michael Dariotis, Dan Eriksson, Helen

Grammatikakis, Julie Mamalis, Demetri Romas

Pre-Festival Activities Chairpersons

Hellenica Julie Mamalis Purchasing Helen Grammatikakis

Donations Michael Dariotis, Gerri Magers Signage Manuel Tsihlas, Nick, Ryan, & Will Coleman

Facilities Dan Eriksson Social Media Sandra Kordazakis

Graphic Design Nikiforos Kalfountzos Transportation & Parking Stefanie Hionis

Planning Stefanie Hionis Vendor Relations Christos Fotopoulos

Public Relations Koula Fotopoulos Website Stefanie Hionis

Overall Food Chairperson Helen Grammatikakis

Individual Food Chairpersons: Helen Grammatikakis, Faye Vallas, Kate Margaris, Maria Sampanis, Emily Coleman, Stefanie Hionis,

Michael Dariotis, Dias Sacramento

Set Up/Breakdown

Planning & Execution Dan Eriksson

Festival Event Chairpersons

Admissions Emily Coleman, Vanessa Kassotakis

Annunciation Bookstore Cynthia Siokos
Annunciation Choir Jamie Bobolis
Byzantine Choir Nick Baba

Church Tours Father Vincent Minucci, Father Timothy Robinson

Entertainment Manager Nicole Pikios

Clover Guru Chris Rotas, W. Nicholas Rotas

Estiatorio Gary Leonard, Irina Rebegeanu, Manuel Tsihlas Festival Souvenirs Booth Christina Chuchas, Eleni Crush, Katherine Rotas

Food Demos Katina Bostanzoglou, Kristen Kane, Kiki Magnuson, Maria Sampanis

Gyros Miltos Apostolidis, Nick Avdis, Thomas Liakos, Demetre Romas

Hellenica Julie Mamalis
Heritage Panels & Art Demetre Fotos
Horiatiki Salata Jim Chuchas

Kafenion Anastasios & Stefanie Hionis
Kitchen Managers Michael Dariotis, George Chuchas

Loukoumathes Sophia Callas, Yiota Makris

MC Tim Hayes

Meze Chris & Kristen Kane, Vasili Tsigaris

Office Anna Brusco, George Chuchas, Dianna Tsihlas

Pandopoleon Vicky Bourdaniotis, Christine Kouvaris, Sophia Sylvester

Raffle Diane Lydon, Theo Marentis

Runners Ryan Coleman Saganaki Dan Eriksson

Taverna George Anastasopoulos, Christine Dariotis, Peter Fotopoulos, Takis Fotopoulos

Volunteer Manager Emily Coleman

Zaharoplastion Nikki Avdis, Helen Grammatikakis, Nicolette Madrid

Thank you to our 2025 Festival Sponsors, Donors, & Underwriters! We appreciate your support!



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Diane Holt

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George Koufasimis & Loula Kufasimes
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• Anne & Kallias Manolakis • Art & Terre Terzakis • Bill Evrigenis & Family • Boorinakis Harper Ranch • Chris, Kristen & Mina
Kane • Chris, Angie, Stathie, & Daniel Georgoulias • Dale Manolakis & Roy Shults • Despina Demas • Demetre, Dimitra & Dino
Haralambakis • Dimitri Vouros • Dimitriades Family • Doug & Donna Wagner • Elania Magana • Fr. Vincent, Pres. Nadia Minucci
& Family • Gary & Irina Leonard • George & Mary Ellen Kassotakis • George & Tina Chuchas • Heather Grey • The Hansen
Family • Hionis Family • In Honor of Mary Dokimos Lydon • In Memory of Theodora Yazigi • Irene DeKellis. • Ivana Krstic &
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Frank Madrid • Nitsa Dariotis • Pauline & Maria Cazanis • Pearl Thomas • Pikios Family • Rula Manikas • Shari Moody • Sophia
Evrigenis • Spyridon & Georgia Avdis • Stella & Howard Norris • Steve & Kate Margaris • Steve & Lori Vourakis • The Sweatt
Family • Sylvia Maritsas, in Memory of Tino Manus • Tom & Deloris Burton • Vasili & Judy Verrios • Vougioukas Family • Will
& Christine Kouvaris • Yianni & Vanessa Kassotakis • Zoe Grossman











From the kitchen to the dance floor...























From the cooking to the raffle booth...

























From behind the scenes to front and center...













You made it all possible!



PARISH PHOTOS

Annunciation at St. Nicholas Ranch & Ionian Village • July 2025 College Student Blessing • August 10, 2025









Sacramento Republic FC Match • August 16, 2025





Backpack Blessing & Ministries Kickoff • September 7, 2025

















THIS WEEK AT ANNUNCIATION EMAIL

Get updates, events, and news in your inbox every week

Subscribe at mailchi.mp/annunciationsac/subscribe



PARISH CALENDAR

Service times, events, and activities — all in one place

Visit tiny.cc/parishcalendar



INSTAGRAM

Photos, events, links, and more — right at your fingertips

@annunciationsac



FACEBOOK

Live services, parish photos, and community updates

Visit facebook.com/annunciation.sacramento

PLEDGED STEWARDS 2025

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

Nick & Shari Alexander Peter Anagnoston

Christ & Helen Anastasopoulos Constantin & Kelly Anastasopoulos

George & Alexis Anastasopoulos David & Evelyn Anderson

Jason & Martha Anderson

Joshua (Anthony) & Rebekah Anderson

Peter Andrews

Elizabeth & Petros Angelakis Philip & Julie Angelides

Kostas Angelopoulos

Geoffrey & Antonia Antipa Milton & Panorea Apostolidis

Maria Asimakopoulos Demetra "Dea" Athon Dennis Augostatos

Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas Nicholas & Nikki Avdis

Spyridon & Georgia Avdis

Diana Bachelor Dan & Katherine Ballas

Elias & Jane Bardis Susan Bitar

Suzanne Blihovde Jamie Bobolis Denny Boom

Julia & Anton Boorinakis Harper

Greg Booros

John & Katina Bostanzoglou P.J. & Vicky Bourdaniotis Paul & Kostandina Bourdaniotis

Theodoros & Magdalene Bourdaniotis

Anna Brusco

Katherine Buttacavoli Cathryn Calmes Dallas & Angela Calmes Paul & Zaferia Cambra John & Aglaia Capetanos Anthony & Michele Caposio Peter & Fotine Casheros

Eleftheria Cazanis Koula Cazanis Maria Cazanis

Michael & Melina Cazanis

Pauline Cazanis Vivian Cazanis Voula Cazanis Tonia Champas Gus Changaris

Tim & Antonia Chapralis

Evan Chavez

Yiota Chelioti Vasiliou

Jack Chesson

Tony & Katherine "Kathi" Chrisopoulos

Adoni & Kristen Christie Angelo & Maren Christie Grigorios & Bettina Chrysofakis George & Christina Chuchas James & Despina Chuchas James & Toula Clubb

Philip & Emily Coleman John & Linda Compoginis

Peter & Soteria Cononelos Antonia Const

Iim Const

Dennis & Jeanlaurie Corelis

Stamatiki Coss Carol & Berle Crisp Timothy & Effie Crush Christine Dariotis Michael Dariotis Nitsa Dariotis Anna Darzins Aaron Davis Linda Davison Maria De Ville Irene DeKellis

Andrew & Christina Demas John & Despina Demas John & Marianna Demas John & Penelope Demas

Louis Demas

Stasis & Jody Diavatis

Constantine & Victoria Dimitriades Michael & Forest Dimitropoulos Nicholas & Laura Docous Thomas & Helen Dogias

Elizabeth Dokimos Kathy Dokimos Donald Dole Katherine Dole Elaine Donovan Evangelina Douveas Marina Downing

Demosthenes & Bessie Dulger-Sheikin

Dimitra Durrell

Scott & Angie Ebrahimi

Kiki Econome

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Dennis Ferreira

Vasiliki & Erik Fkiaras-Magnuson

Christos Fotopoulos

George & Kathy Fotopoulos

John & Theofani Fotopoulos Panagiotis Fotopoulos Panayiotis Fotopoulos Peter & Koula Fotopoulos Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos

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Demitri Gassoumis Andrew & Teresa Gates

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Nikolaos & Thalia Georgalis

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Rose Geranios Angela Gianopulos Alex Gianulias

Iessica Gianulias

Pauline & Chris Gianulias

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Louis & Georgette Grivetti

George Hagios Peter & Natalie Haigh Sandra Hamameh Richard & Nicki Hansen

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Larry Haralambakis

Michael & Deanna Haralambakis

Thomas & Phyllis Harper Katina & Mark Harris Jennifer Harry

Elias & Catherine Hatzakos

John Hatzis

Domna & James Hebenstreit Zachary & Taryn Heinzer

William Hess

Maria & Christopher Higdon

William & Karen Hill Anastasios & Stefanie Hionis Ameen & Georgia Hofioni

PLEDGED STEWARDS 2025

AS OF 9/30/2025

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Athena Johnson

Chris & Janine Johnson Eric & Maia Johnson

Nancy Johnson George Jouganatos James & Robin Kafouros Phyllis Marie Kafouros

Panagiotis & Katerina Kakkavas

Helen Kales

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Nick Kamilos

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George Kastanis Terry Kastanis

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Jim & Lara Kiniris Despina Kiriakes

Steven & Lindsey Kivetos

Peter Kleary

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Andreas & Élizabeth Yerocostas

Anestis & Areti Yiaslas Athanasios Yiaslas

And our stewards who wish to remain anonymous

Pledged Families: 410

Please contact our financial office at accounting @anunciationsac.org with questions.

ANNUNCIATION PARISH ASSEMBLY

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Following the Divine Liturgy

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Sunday Bulletin

Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org Limited to Annunciation parish and parochial ministry activities and announcements

This Week at Annunciation Email

Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

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December 10th to observer@annunciationsac.org

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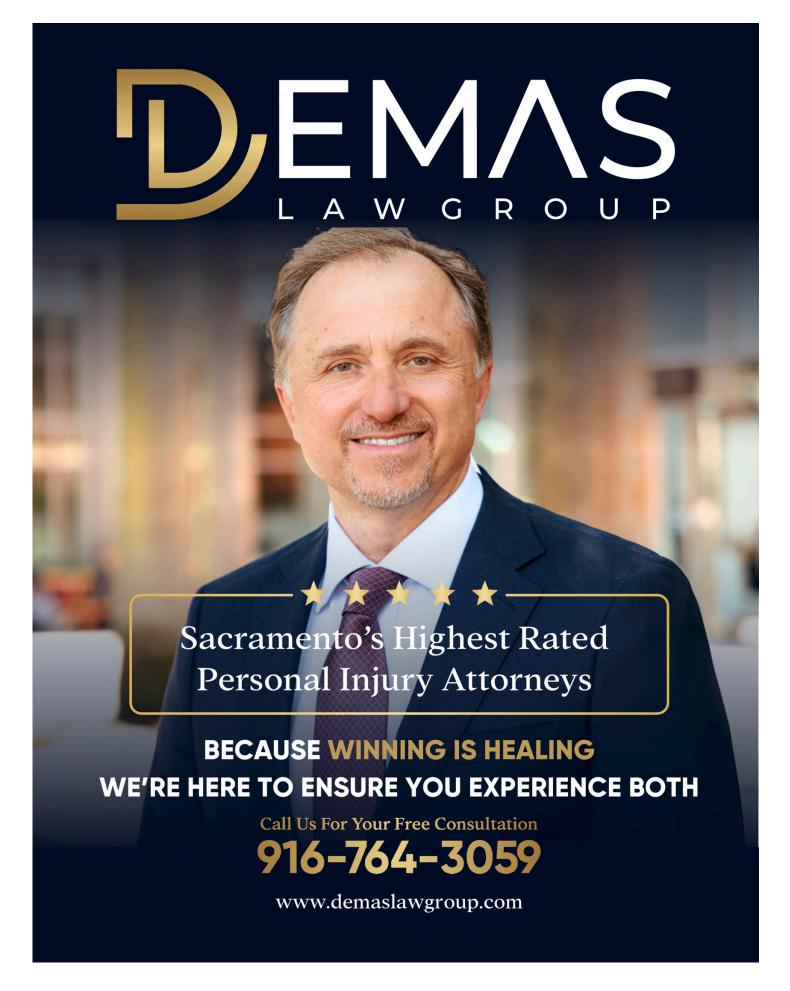


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