

HISTORICAL TIMELINE

of the
SAINT KATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
Elk Grove, California

- On April 20, 1988, then Bishop Anthony of San Francisco convenes a special meeting at Kerr Junior High School to explore the possibility of sanctioning a new parish in Elk Grove, with a number of interested Orthodox faithful.
- The following month on May 25th, Bishop Anthony meets again with interested families and appoints the first Parish Council for the new parish.
- On June 23, 1988, the 22 initial families of the newly organized parish hold a barbeque to introduce Father Constantine Pappademos and Presvytera Chrisoula of the Holy Cross Church in Belmont, California, as the future pastor of the new church.
- Parish was founded on August 7th, 1988 with the celebration of the first Divine Liturgy in a rented hall.
- Known as the Greek Orthodox Church of Southern Sacramento County, the community organized itself with only 22 families and approximately \$5,000 in a parish checking account. Within six years, the parish started construction on its \$2 million church facility and within eight years had increased its membership family roster nearly ten-fold.
- In April of 1989, the congregation moved to a warehouse located on Dino Drive in Elk Grove, which the members converted into a church/chapel.
- May of 1989, a 6 acre parcel of real estate was donated to the parish as a tentative future church site by parishioners Angelo Tsakopoulos, Jerry Pavlatos and other partners. On June 18, 1992, this parcel was sold to the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church for \$600,000.
- On June 3, 1989 the parishioners vote to take the name of Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church at a special Church Naming banquet.
- September 10, 1989 the congregation votes to commission Mr. Christ J. Kamages, AIA of EKONA Architecture + Planning, San Francisco, to design a permanent house of worship.
- In July of 1991, a 4 acre parcel of real estate (adjacent to the parcel donated in May of 1989), was donated to the parish by the same group of benefactors and was sold for \$325,000.
- September 26, 1993 Church Ground-breaking ceremonies held at future (but not yet donated) church site in the Laguna West neighborhood of Elk Grove.
- In February of 1994 a 3 acre parcel of real estate in Laguna West (current church location) was donated to the parish by Angelo Tsakopoulos, Phil Angelides and Sotiris Kolokotronis.
- November 1994 construction on new church begins.
- May 9, 1995, Construction crews raise the dome of the church into position 40 ft. above floor.

- September 1995 construction is completed on the 7,200 sq. ft. church building with a capacity of 275 people, including a 1,000 sq. ft. fellowship hall and another 1,000 sq. ft. of office space.
- October 29, 1995 – Opening of the Doors ceremony (Thyranoixia) and first Divine Liturgy in the new church celebrated by Metropolitan Anthony of San Francisco.
- May 1996 icon screen installed.
- By 1998, its tenth anniversary as a parish, Saint Katherine has grown to over 200 families. The Ladies' Philoptochos Society has 85 members, Sunday School 50 children and even six students in the parish Greek School. The Dance Program also consists of 2 groups with 15 children each.
- February 1999, interior mural iconography program begins.
- August 2004 Platytera and Hierarchs iconography installed in the Holy Altar.
- November 8th, 2004 Archbishop Demetrios of America is welcomed at Saint Katherine for his first archpastoral visit to the Sacramento area, presiding at the Divine Liturgy for the feast of the Archangels Michael and Gabriel. Over 300 faithful attend the Liturgy that Monday morning.
- November 20, 2004 the congregation celebrates the Grand Opening of its newly completed 8,400 sq. ft. Tsakopoulos Hall, donated by parishioners George and Drosoula Tsakopoulos.
- May 21, 2005 Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church of Elk Grove, California is consecrated with the relics of Saint Panteleimon, Saint Kyrikos, and the Holy Fathers martyred in Sinai at Raitho, by His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.
- July 2007 Christ the Pantocrator icon and archangel iconography installed in dome.
- August 2007 Construction completed on Bell Tower, Biblical Garden and Festival Plateia.
- November 2007 the parish begins its 20th Anniversary celebration year with parish membership at nearly 300 families, nearly 100 members of Philoptochos, over 50 children in Sunday School, 3 Greek School classes and a Youth Folk Dance program with 5 dance groups.
- August 17, 2008 the church bell and fountain are installed and dedicated.
- February 5, 2009, bronze chandeliers are donated and installed in the church sanctuary.
- Summer of 2010, the parish hopes to complete its final phase of mural iconography in the dome of the church.