



S A I N T K A T H E R I N E C H R O N I C L E

February 2015

A Word from your Pastor

Believe it or not, since our parish was founded in 1988, over a hundred adults have converted to the Orthodox faith through Saint Katherine in Elk Grove. I took the time the other day to check our parish records. In reviewing the registries of all the Baptisms and Chrismations celebrated here, I was surprised to discover over 100 adult converts listed. That's an average of four each year!

When anyone expresses a desire to convert to the Orthodox faith, the procedure they must follow is a standard one. Each candidate participates in a series of 3 or 4 Catechism classes here at the church to learn about many of the different aspects of the Orthodox faith. And when they finish, my impression is that they probably know as much (if not more) at that point, than many of us who have been born into the faith.

They learn about the history of Christianity from the beginning, about the Sacraments, about the Divine Liturgy, prayer, fasting, making the sign of the cross and many other things. And lately, I've been thinking that it would be a good thing for all of us to become more familiar with those things as well. That's why during Great Lent this year, we will hold a series of talks in our hall on Sundays during coffee hour called "Orthodox Refresher" classes.

After the Divine Liturgy, anyone who would like to participate can just go into the coffee hour, grab a cup of coffee and gather at the tables near the Virgin Mary banner in the hall. I'll be in as soon as I finish in the Altar, so that we can talk about the following things:

March 8 – A Brief History of the Christian World

March 15 – The 7 Sacraments, Windows into Heaven

March 22 – Expressing our Faith Personally (what we can do to strengthen our own faith)

March 29 – Getting the most out of Holy Week

Join me for some informative presentations that will help you "brush up" on what we believe.

Faithfully yours,

Father Dino

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL – We welcome the new members of our Parish Council who were elected this past December and joined the returning members. The members of the 2015 Saint Katherine Parish Council are as follows: Carol Robinson, President; Theodore Pantazis, Vice President; Richard Bueche, Treasurer; James Scaife, Secretary; Tom Balalis, Kostas Kapiniaris and Demos Papadopoulos. We are grateful for their dedicated service and for all their efforts involved with the administration of our parish. Thank you and congratulations one and all!

STEWARDSHIP – Our Stewardship program remains the mainstay of support for our parish. It provides for over half of the funds we need to continue to do God’s work through our parish. So far we have received nearly 200 pledge cards from our families with an average pledge of about \$800 for the year. We thank everyone for their continued support. Another 100 families have yet to return their card and we ask that if you haven’t yet, send yours in this week. Don’t forget that you can print a card from our website. You can also make your offerings in a way that is most convenient for you - weekly, monthly, quarterly or annually. Also you may even send your Stewardship offering through our website and the PayPal feature available.

RESURRECTION SUPPER – All parishioners are invited to break the Lenten fast with a midnight supper following the Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection. There is no charge for this wonderful meal, but if you would like to help with the cost of securing one of the 12 legs of lamb we’ll be preparing, please make your check for \$35 (marked Easter lamb donation in the memo) payable to Saint Katherine. Simply hand it to one of the ushers on any Sunday and join us as we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this year.

HOLY FRIDAY MYHRRBEARERS – Don’t forget that all girls aged 6 – 12 are invited to participate in the procession during the evening service of the Lamentations on Holy Friday at 7 PM. They should wear a white dress and sit in the front pew (no candles please) to be ready to sprinkle flower petals during the procession that night.

BECOME A MEMBER OF PHILOPTOCHOS – We invite all the women in the Parish to become a member of Philoptochos in 2015. Our Saint Katherine Philoptochos is comprised of a number of Circles, each of which has special interests and allows each Circle to focus on its particular cause or charity. Also, be sure to mark your calendar for our annual Mother’s Day Luncheon on Saturday, May 9th!

ROOF REPAIR FUND – When we built our beautiful church 20 years ago, we could only afford to install a flat roof that had a 10 year warrantee. Of course, now it has started to leak in several places and to address this problem, we have decided to replace the flat roof areas of the church with a new roof utilizing the latest and longest-lasting technology that comes with a 20 year warrantee. The cost for the repair stands at \$57,000. To address this, we have recently begun a special fund-raising effort and every family is invited to offer a donation of any size to help offset the cost of the work that needs to be done. The offerings given so far, total about \$15,000. We thank those who have helped thus far and invite everyone to participate in this important effort to protect our church.

SPRING CLEAN-UP DAY MARCH 28TH – Join us for a little spring cleanup here at Saint Katherine on Saturday, March 28th. We’ll be sprucing up, painting, cleaning and gardening that morning starting at 9 AM to ensure the our church looks its best for Easter. Bring your tools and brushes and lend a hand!

SAN FRANCISCO METROPOLIS STRATEGIC PLAN – Our Metropolis has implemented a Strategic Plan that seeks to encourage more active participation and better organization within the Metropolis and its parishes. Many areas of parish life are being addressed to help each community do its best to serve Christ and His people. Our parish liaison for this effort is Mr. Theodore Pantazis, who will be making presentations with more details at our next General Assembly meeting.

SPRING GENERAL ASSEMBLY – APRIL 19TH – Our annual Spring General Assembly meeting will be held on Sunday, April 19th following the Divine Liturgy. Several updates on our parish life will be given.

2015

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

April

3	FRIDAY EVENING	Tie Palm Crosses	6:30 PM
4	LAZARUS SATURDAY	Divine Liturgy Confessions following Liturgy	10 AM
5	PALM SUNDAY	Divine Liturgy & luncheon	10 AM
6	HOLY MONDAY	Bridegroom Service	7 PM
7	HOLY TUESDAY	Bridegroom Service	7 PM
8	HOLY WEDNESDAY	Holy Unction Service	5:30 PM
9	HOLY THURSDAY	Divine Liturgy Holy Passion Service	10 AM 7 PM
10	HOLY FRIDAY	(Decorate Epitaphios) Descent From the Cross Service of Lamentations	9 AM 3 PM 7 PM
11	HOLY SATURDAY	Divine Liturgy Resurrection Service	10 AM 11:45 PM
12	EASTER SUNDAY	Resurrection Liturgy (Paschal supper follows in church hall) Agape Vespers	12:01 AM 12 PM

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ΑΝΕΣΤΗ

MARK YOUR LENTEN CALENDAR

Psychosabbata (Memorial Saturdays) 10 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by the Memorial Service.
(No service on February 14, Father Dino at FDF) February 21 and February 28

“Orthodox Refresher” Classes – Held during Coffee Hour on the following Sundays: March 8, 15, 22, and 29

Presanctified Liturgies – The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts beginning at 10 AM on the following Wednesdays: February 25; March 4, 11, 18.

Salutations to the Virgin Mary (Χαιρετισμοί τῆς Θεοτόκου) will be chanted beginning at 7 PM on the following Fridays: February 27; March 6, 13 and 20.

Feast of the Annunciation – Divine Liturgy at our sister parish in Sacramento. March 25th, 10 AM.

The Akathist Hymn (Ο Ακάθιστος Ύμνος) will be chanted on Friday, March 27th at 7 PM.

April 3, Friday – Tie Palm Crosses, 6:30 PM

April 4, Saturday – Saturday of Lazarus, Divine Liturgy 10 AM; Sacrament of Confession following.

April 5 to 12 – HOLY WEEK AND EASTER. Please refer to the Holy Week Schedule in this issue for a complete listing of services throughout the week.

May 9th – Mother’s Day Luncheon, sponsored by our Philoptochos Society in our Tsakopoulos Hall, Saturday at Noon. All are invited but reservations are required.

May 17th – Sunday School Graduation following the Divine Liturgy.

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
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Time Dated Material

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