



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

Spring-Summer 2015

A Word from your Pastor

In 1966, TIME magazine published an issue with a cover that asked a question in big bold letters: “Is God Dead?” It stirred up quite a controversy and seems to have been a continuation of the “God is Dead” philosophical event described by Friedrich Nietzsche in the late 19th century. I even remember seeing a booklet entitled *An Orthodox Response to the “God is Dead” Movement* in the seminary bookstore when I got there in 1981 (even though it was on the discount shelf for \$1 by that time).

All of these “God Is Dead” manifestations have been simply various expressions of nihilism, existentialism, secularism and atheism in recent history that never really amounted to much. As a matter of fact, the backlash to the Time magazine headline was so intense that three years later they published another issue with a contrasting headline: “Is God Coming Back to Life?”

Today however, it seems that another attempt to proclaim God and Christianity and the Church dead, is ramping up again, this time under the guise of same-sex marriage. Most observers predict that in a few weeks the Supreme Court will rule that even states that do not recognize same-sex marriages will be required to do so, thus nationalizing the entirely new phenomenon of homosexual marriage.

Of course for activists, that won't be enough. It is logical to assume that eventually, homosexuality will be declared a civil right. In that case, any member of the clergy or any parish that refuses to perform same-sex marriages might be proclaimed guilty of discrimination and civil rights violations, which could lead to the loss of tax-exempt status and being stigmatized... a persecution not accomplished by violence but by legal battles. How has this come to be? How could a faith that teaches love, kindness, generosity and compassion suffer these things? Because the Gospel of Christ also teaches self-control. And self-control is an abomination to a society immersed in hedonism.

It may no longer be so easy to be a Christian. Tremendous pressure may be brought upon us to make us ashamed of the Gospel in society (Romans 1:16-17). Of course, for us Orthodox this is nothing new. Saint Paul and the early Christians endured the same and worse during the Great Persecutions of the first three centuries, Greeks and Slavs under Ottoman oppression and Russians during the Communist era.

The solution to all of this is to turn to God in prayer to guide us in a world that calls good, evil... and what is evil, good. Another solution lies in our own ability to serve God and devote ourselves to the bold and unwavering defense of the Christian faith, just as Saint Paul and all the Fathers of the Church have done. We have to be prepared to be the best we can be in our personal life, in worship and in the love we show to our family and our neighbor.

The Holy Synod has issued a statement regarding all this and several articles appear on the Archdiocese website. God is indeed alive and in fact, Christ is risen!

Father Dina

Internet Ministries at Saint Katherine

“Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” (Mark 16:15)

In the words of His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios, “The web site is an essential tool for the accomplishment of the work set before us by the Lord in His Great Commission to go forth into the world and preach the Gospel. May we use this vital medium to assert ourselves in an appropriate, authentic and Orthodox way, offering on many different levels the transmission of the life of communion that exists in God.”

To improve outreach and communication at Saint Katherine, we have established a broad internet presence. You can now follow activities at Saint Katherine via our website, email list, Facebook, Shutterfly, Twitter and Instagram.

TO REACH OUR WEBSITE, enter www.saintkatherine.org in your browser’s address bar. There you’ll see images to click on that will take you to information about the Hall, the Festival, and the Church. At the bottom, click on the picture of the Church, and the top right of the next page, will have links to:

- make a donation
- join our email list
- view our events calendar
- view most recent newsletters
- make a stewardship payment
- view our online photo albums
- follow our Facebook page
- follow us on Instagram

Our website also offers the Weekly Announcements and some of Father Dino’s sermons. Just click on the icon that says, **Join our Email List** to receive all our announcements every week.

NEWSLETTER: To control costs and advance with the digital age, eventually our future Newsletters will be electronic. For now, we ask that those with email access subscribe to our email list to receive our Newsletters. Eventually all our newsletters will be offered electronically with hard copies being available at church on Sundays. You can go directly to www.saintkatherine.org/join.html and sign up for our email list.

SOCIAL MEDIA: We maintain Facebook pages for the Church and our Festival, “A Weekend In Greece”. Anyone can visit them at www.facebook.com/saintkatherine and www.facebook.com/eggreekfestival. To subscribe to them, however, you must have a Facebook account. Then go to the addresses above and click the “Like” button on each page. Also, add us to your “Favorites” so that we’re more likely to appear in your feed. You can find our photos and video at saintkatherine.shutterfly.org. If you’re on Twitter, follow our Festival account at www.twitter.com/eggreekfestival. And look for us on Instagram at [saintkatherinegoc](https://www.instagram.com/saintkatherinegoc).

If you have questions or need assistance subscribing to our email list, please contact our Webmaster Enrico Carrieri at webmaster@saintkatherine.org.

STEWARDSHIP – Our parish currently has a membership of just over 300 families. We measure this number by counting the families who make donations and offerings to Saint Katherine throughout the year. However, the formal way to ensure that you are counted as a member of Saint Katherine is by filling out a Stewardship pledge card and returning it to the church office. Our current average pledge for the year is about \$800, but we accept all gifts since Stewardship is based on our ability to give, not a set amount. Offerings may be made in full, quarterly, monthly or weekly. Also, you may print a pledge card from our web page or simply enclose a note detailing your pledge with your offering. Thank you!

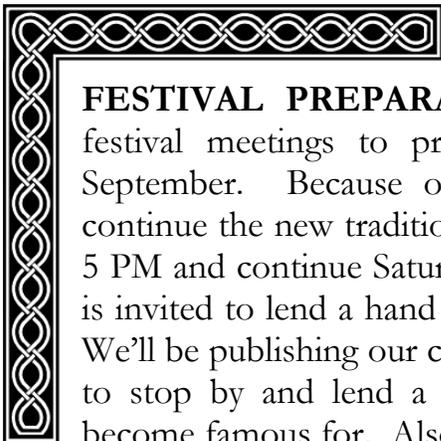
YOUTH FOLK DANCE GROUPS – The children of our parish have already begun rehearsing on Friday evenings for their performances of Greek folk dances at our annual Festival in September. All children of the parish are welcome to participate, but should register before June 19. Also, parents of dancers should be pledging members of Saint Katherine or another local Greek Orthodox Parish. And finally, Father Dino would like to see all dance families – children and parents – worshipping at the Divine Liturgy every Sunday morning during the summer. It is important to remember that Saint Katherine is a church, not a dance school.

SAINT KATHERINE ACOLYTES – One of the most consistent and unique youth ministries at Saint Katherine has been the Acolyte program. All boys from age 7 through 18, are eligible to serve as Acolytes in the Holy Altar during the Divine Liturgy on Sunday morning, as well as during other special services and holidays throughout the year. During the summer, all young men are encouraged to serve every Sunday. For more information and to enroll your son as an Acolyte, simply contact Father Dino.

A SUNDAY SCHOOL FIRST! – Congratulations to one of our first Sunday School students, Stacey Howell who has just graduated from medical school this year. Her parents, Steve and Lydia Howell, are among the original founding families of Saint Katherine. Stacey was enrolled in our Sunday School program during the early “warehouse days” when we were located on Dino Drive in Elk Grove. Dr. Stacey Howell has been accepted on staff Internal Medicine residency at the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento. Congratulations and Eis Anoter!

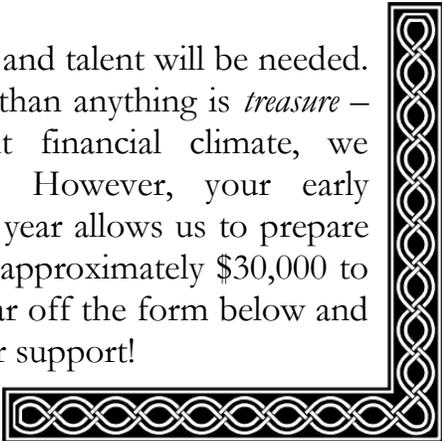
FATHER’S DAY LUCHEON – Celebrate fathers by joining us on *Sunday, June 21st* for a Father’s Day barbecue following liturgy! There will be barbecued hot dogs and hamburgers along with salad and chips. Tickets will be only \$5 per person. More details are in the inserted flyer.

“AN EVENING IN GREECE” – We will celebrate our first Evening in Greece on *Saturday, August 15th* beginning at 6 PM with a fellowship hour and then at 7 PM with dinner. The evening will take place outside, under the lights on our festival grounds with delicious food, fantastic Greek music, and dancing! For the menu, there will be a choice of either a lamb or chicken dinner. Before July 31st, tickets will be \$25 per person or \$250 per table. Tickets purchased after July 31st will be \$30 per person or \$300 per table. This new and exciting event is being held to raise funds to provide for festival expenses. Look for more details in this issue’s flyer. Tickets are available from any Parish Council member or after church on Sunday.



FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS – We have already held several festival meetings to prepare for our “Weekend In Greece” this September. Because of the wonderful success last year, we will continue the new tradition of starting our festival on Friday evening at 5 PM and continue Saturday and Sunday, *September 25 – 27*. Everyone is invited to lend a hand to make this year’s festival another great one! We’ll be publishing our cooking and baking schedule very soon for you to stop by and lend a hand in preparing the delicious food we’ve become famous for. Also, if you’d like to become a festival sponsor or advertise in our program book, just ask any Parish Council member for details.

As the festival draws near, more of your time and talent will be needed. This early on, however, what we need more than anything is *treasure – your financial support*. In today’s difficult financial climate, we understand that resources are limited. However, your early contribution to our biggest fundraiser of the year allows us to prepare everything early and properly. We will need approximately \$30,000 to purchase supplies and materials, so please, tear off the form below and make your early donation. Thank you for your support!



2015 Weekend In Greece Donation Form

We would like to help make our festival a big success this year, by donating:

\$ _____

Your Name: _____

Telephone: _____

(Please make your check payable to Saint Katherine Church, mark the memo section “Festival Donation,” and return it to the church office. Thank you!)

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

June 21, Sunday – Father’s Day Luncheon barbecue following Divine Liturgy.

June 29, Monday – The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.

June 30, Tuesday – The Feast of the Twelve Apostles, and Father Dino’s 30th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.

August 1, Saturday—Lenten fasting period begins for the feast of the Assumption of the Theotokos

August 5, Wednesday – Great Vespers for the feast of the Holy Transfiguration, 7 PM.

August 6, Thursday – The Feast of Transfiguration of our Lord, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.

August 7, Friday – Paraclesis Service, 7 PM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).

August 12, Wednesday – Paraclesis Service, 7 PM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).

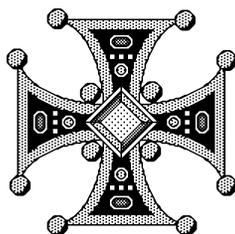
August 14, Friday – Great Vespers Service for the feast of the Assumption, 7 PM.

August 15, Saturday – Divine Liturgy, Assumption of the Theotokos, 10 AM, and

“**An Evening in Greece**” with dinner and music 6/7 PM, outside on the festival grounds.

September 24, Thursday – Set up for Weekend in Greece, 10 AM.

September 25, 26, 27 – Our Annual Festival, “**A Weekend In Greece!**”



St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
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Elk Grove, CA 95758

Time Dated Material

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