



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

Summer 2016

A Word from your Pastor

In the Divine Liturgy, just before the small entrance with the book of the Gospels, the Priest prays this prayer: “As we make our entrance, let there also be an entrance of holy angels, serving with us and together glorifying Your goodness.” After the sermon, in the prayer of the Cherubic Hymn, the Priest prays, “We who mystically represent the Cherubim...” Later on, just before we kneel, we sing the hymn that the Prophet Isaiah described the angels singing in heaven: “Agiō~, Agiō~, Agiō~, Kurio~ Sabawq – Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord of Hosts.”

In other words, during the Divine Liturgy, many of the prayers and hymns describe how we are participating in something heavenly with the angels. I even find myself, many times, imagining angels surrounding the Holy Altar Table.

Contrast that with the way many people think about the Liturgy. Instead of a heavenly perspective, they look at the Liturgy from the bottom – where should I sit, who is distracting me, boy it’s long today, it’s too formal, not practical to every day life and on and on. Our thoughts about the Divine Liturgy many times lean in the “bottom up” direction. We can get stuck in the mundane things of what’s happening.

The Divine Liturgy is certainly not entertaining in the way that other Christian groups worship on Sunday, with electric guitars and drums and even orchestras. But entertainment is not one of the goals of the Liturgy. Spiritual growth and intimacy with God is.

Let me then suggest that next time...you try something different. Consider that when you enter our church under the beautiful dome (which represents heaven where Christ is enthroned), that you are entering into the worship of Christ that is taking place in heaven and on earth. Try to imagine yourself “up there” with the angels in the dome who are grateful for the existence He has given them, and are delighted to be in His loving presence.

We have a great privilege at every Liturgy to lift our eyes, our hearts and our voices to the heavens, as Christ Himself comes to earth to meet us. Thinking about the Divine Liturgy in this way can make a big difference on Sunday morning and in our whole life.

Faithfully yours,

Father Dino

STEWARDSHIP – Our parish currently has a membership of just under 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. You may print a pledge card from our web page or simply enclose a note 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 by July 1st. 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 – on Sunday mornings during the summer. The most important thing to remember is that Saint Katherine is a church, not a dance school.

AN EVENING IN GREECE – We will celebrate our second, annual Evening in Greece on *Saturday, August 27th* 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, chicken or vegetarian dinner. Tickets are \$30 per person or \$300 per table and must be purchased before August 21st. This 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.

SAYING GOODBYE – JULY 24TH – On Sunday, July 24th following the Divine Liturgy, we will have the opportunity to bid farewell and good luck to our parish administrator, Dimitri Pappademos, who has been working in the office for the past year and a half. A special Coffee Hour that day will include presentations from both the Parish Council and the Ladies Philtochos Society. Our best wishes and prayers go out to Dimitri as he begins medical school at the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee this August.

NEW BARBEQUES NEEDED – Our large barbeques that we use for preparing the delicious chicken dinners at our Festival are 10 years old and are worn out and rusted through. We have found replacements in Santa Monica, CA and would like to order and install them before the Festival this year. Each barbeque is priced at \$2,500. If you would like to contribute toward this necessary replacement, please contact Father Dino.

TREE OF LIFE AND MEMORIAL TREE – The day before Memorial Day this year we offered beautiful prayers and read the names of all those represented on the leaves of our Memorial Tree in our Tsakopoulos Hall. Several families expressed an interest in including their loved ones on the Memorial Tree. If you would like to have a leaf engraved in memory of someone on the Memorial Tree, or have your family's name engraved on a leaf of the Tree of Life on the opposite side of the hall, the donation is \$1,000 per leaf and is dedicated to our Building Fund to help in the repair and upkeep of our facilities. Just talk to Father Dino.



AN EVENING IN
GREECE

Saturday

August 27, 2016

Come join us outside under the lights for an evening of dinner,
Greek music, and dancing!

6PM – Refreshments

7PM – Dinner

Make your choice of a **lamb, chicken, or vegetarian** dinner
when tickets are purchased

Tickets must be purchased BEFORE August 21st:


-\$30 per person (children under 12 - \$12) – OR –

-\$300 per table

– TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR –
(LIMITED TO THE FIRST 300)

Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church • 9165 Peets Street • Elk Grove, CA 95758

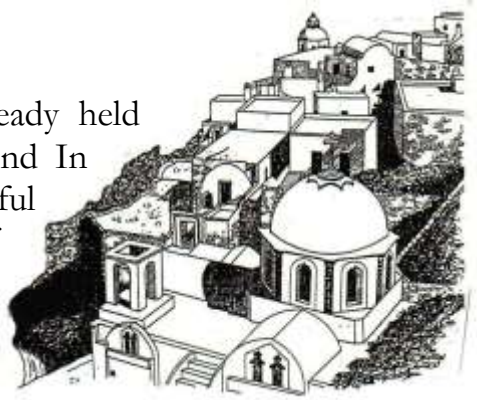
For more information, call: (916) 683 – 3443



Festival Cooking Schedule

All are welcome to learn Greek cooking and help cook for the festival!

Item	Date and Time
Dolmades	Tuesday, July 12 th at 9 AM Wednesday, July 13 th at 9 AM
Koulourakia	Tuesday, July 26 th at 9 AM
Vegetarian Moussaka	Thursday, July 28 th at 9 AM
Spanakopita	Sunday, July 30 th at noon Monday, August 1 st at 9 AM
Tiropita	Tuesday, August 2 nd at 9AM
Tourlou	Tuesday, August 16 th at 9 AM
Kourabiedes	Thursday, August 18 th at 9AM
Baklava (prepare)	Thursday, August 25 th at 9AM
Pastitsio	Tuesday, August 30 th at 9 AM Wednesday, August 31 st at 9 AM Thursday, September 1 st at 9 AM
Paximadakia	Tuesday, September 6 th at 9 AM
Tsourekia	Wednesday, September 7 th at 9 AM
Melomakarona (prepare and bake)	Tuesday, September 13 th at 9 AM
Diples (prepare and bake)	Thursday, September 15 th at 9 AM
Baklava (syrup)	Sunday, September 18 th at noon
Karithopita	Sunday, September 18 th at noon
Melomakarona (dip on honey)	Monday, September 19 th at 9 AM
Baklava (bake)	Tuesday, September 20 th at 9 AM
Galatouboureko	Wednesday, September 21 st at 9 AM
Diples (dip in honey)	Thursday, September 22 nd at 9 AM

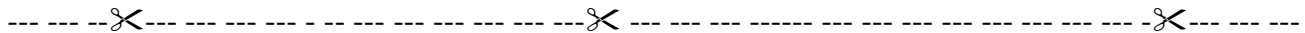


FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS – We have already held several festival meetings to prepare for our “Weekend In Greece” this September. Because of the wonderful success last year, we will continue the new tradition of

starting our festival on Friday evening at 5 PM and continue Saturday and Sunday, September 23 – 25. Everyone is invited to lend a hand to make this year’s festival another great one!

Festival set-up begins at 10:00 AM on Thursday, September 22nd. Also, if you’d like to become a festival sponsor, just ask any Parish Council member for details. The success of our festival depends a great deal on the donations we receive toward ingredients of the menu items we prepare. Any donation, large or small, will be truly appreciated. In particular, we need help with the following:

- 1) Donations for decorations, plates, napkins, etc.: \$1200.00
- 2) Food item donations
 - Souvlaki: \$800
 - Lamb: \$900
 - Chicken: \$800
 - Pastitsio: \$1500
 - Pastries: \$750
- 3) Taverna (bar) volunteers
- 4) Pastry line volunteers
- 5) A La Carte line volunteers
- 6) Festival tear down help



2016 Weekend In Greece Donation Form

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

\$ _____ for _____

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!)

The Saints of the Orthodox Church

George Bebis, Ph.D.
Holy Cross School of Theology

GOD AND HOLINESS

It must be stated at the beginning that the only true "saint" or holy one (Hagios) is God Himself. The Bible states "For I am the Lord your God; you shall name yourselves holy and keep yourselves holy, because I am holy. . . ." (Levit. 11: 44; 19: 2 and 20: 7). Man becomes holy and "sainted" by participation in the holiness of God.

Holiness or sainthood is a gift (charisma) given by God to man, through the Holy Spirit. Man's effort to become a participant in the life of divine holiness is indispensable, but sanctification itself is the work of the Holy Trinity, especially through the sanctifying power of Jesus Christ, who was incarnate, suffered crucifixion, and rose from the dead, in order to lead us to the life of holiness, through the communion with the Holy Spirit. In the Second Letter to the Thessalonians St. Paul suggests: "But we are bound to thank God always for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because from the beginning of time God chose you to find salvation in the Spirit that consecrates you, (en agiasmo Pneumatos) and in the truth that you believe. It was for this that He called you through the Gospel we brought, so that you might possess for your own the splendor of our Lord Jesus Christ" (2: 13-14).

CATEGORIES OF SAINTS

Through the work of the Holy Trinity all Christians could be called saints; especially in the early Church as long as they were baptized in the name of the Holy Trinity, they received the Seal of the Spirit in chrismation and frequently participated in the Eucharist. In the same spirit St. Paul, when writing to the Churches he had visited, calls all the faithful "saints." Writing to the Ephesians, he addresses "the saints who live in Ephesus" (1: 1); writing to the Corinthians he uses the same expressions (2 Cor. 1: 11). St. Basil, commenting on this point, writes that Paul refers to all those who are united with God, who is the Being, the Life and the Truth (Against Eunomius, II, 19). Furthermore, St. Paul writes to the Colossians that God has reconciled men by Christ's death, "so that He may present you before Himself holy, without blemish and innocent in His sight" (1: 22).

In our society, however, who can be addressed as a saint? Who are those men and women and children who may be called saints by the Church today? Many Orthodox theologians classify the saints in six categories:

The Apostles, who were the first ones to spread the message of the Incarnation of the Word of God and of salvation through Christ.

The Prophets, because they predicted and prophesied the coming of the Messiah.

The Martyrs, for sacrificing their lives and fearlessly confessing Jesus Christ as the Son of God and the Savior of mankind.

The Fathers and Hierarchs of the Church, who excelled in explaining and in defending, by word and deed, the Christian faith.

The Monastics, who lived in the desert and dedicated themselves to spiritual exercise (askesis), reaching, as far as possible, perfection in Christ.

The Just, those who lived in the world, leading exemplary lives as clergy or laity with their families, becoming examples for imitation in society.

Each and every one among all these saints has his or her own calling and characteristics: they all fought the "good fight for the faith" (1 Tim. 6: 12 and 2 Tim. 4: 7). All of them applied in their lives the scriptural virtues of "justice, piety, fidelity, love, fortitude, and gentleness" (1 Tim. 6: 11).

CANONIZATION OF SAINTS

The Orthodox Church does not follow any official procedure for the "recognition" of saints. Initially the Church accepted as saints those who had suffered martyrdom for Christ. The saints are saints thanks to the grace of God, and they do not need official ecclesiastical recognition. The Christian people, reading their lives and witnessing their performance of miracles, accept and honor them as saints. St. John Chrysostom, persecuted and exiled by the civil and ecclesiastical authorities, was accepted as a saint of the Church by popular acclaim. St. Basil the Great was accepted immediately after his death as a saint of the Church by the people. Recently, in order to avoid abuses, the Ecumenical Patriarchate has issued special encyclical letters (tomoi) in which the Holy Synod "recognizes" or accepts the popular feelings about a saint. Such an example in our days is St. Nicodemos of the Holy Mountain (1955).



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- June 18, Saturday – Psychosabbaton, Divine Liturgy and memorial service, 10 AM.
June 19, Sunday – Pentecost Sunday and Father’s Day Luncheon barbecue following Divine Liturgy.
June 29, Wednesday – The Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
June 30, Thursday – The Feast of the Twelve Apostles, and Father Dino’s 31st anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
July 25, Monday – Feast of St. Anna, Divine Liturgy in Roseville, 10 AM.
July 27, Wednesday – Feast of Saint Panteleimon, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
August 1, Monday—Lenten fasting period begins for the feast of the Assumption of the Theotokos Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).
August 3, Wednesday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).
August 15, Monday – Divine Liturgy, Assumption of the Theotokos, 10 AM.
August 27, Saturday – “**An Evening in Greece**” with dinner and music 6/7 PM, outside on the festival grounds.
September 14, Wednesday – Feast of the Holy Cross, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
September 22, Thursday – Set up for Weekend in Greece, 10 AM.
September 23, 24, 25 – Our Annual Festival, “**A Weekend In Greece!**”



St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
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Time Dated Material

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