



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

Summer 2018

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## *A Word from your Pastor*

Thirty years ago this summer, we held our first Divine Liturgy as a parish in Elk Grove. We had then, about 20 families signed up as members and about \$5,000 in the bank. It seemed like everybody was expecting us to fail. But God had different plans. Week after week we continued worshipping together and week after week we kept getting stronger and stronger until we grew to about 300 families today and have built about \$5 million worth of church and hall buildings.

Back in 1988, we started with one Priest and no staff. And for the next three decades we had the same, just one Priest and no staff. Until this year. The good news is that Our Parish Council voted recently to search for and to hire a Pastoral Assistant to help the Priest in his many duties. The idea is to help increase the scope of our ministries here at Saint Katherine in order to bring more people closer to their faith and to God. We've found a candidate who may be familiar to many of us, but who also brings an impressive resume of theological training and youth work with him. You can read more about our new Pastoral Assistant in this issue of our newsletter.

Also in this issue of the newsletter you'll find some important information about our festival this September 21<sup>st</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. We've included the cooking and baking schedule so that you can come and lend a hand to make our famous homemade menu items with excellent recipes for Greek food and pastries. The best way to learn Greek cooking is by doing Greek cooking. The people that gather to prepare our delicious menu items are always quick to welcome and happy to teach.

If you can't help in the kitchen, then I'd like to ask you to consider a financial donation to help offset the cost of putting the festival together this year...around \$25,000. We need to buy ingredients, rent tables, chairs and tents, and purchase a great deal of supplies to make things work. We would like to raise enough donations before the festival begins, so that we will have covered all of our expenses. That way, even from the first piece of baklava that is sold, we realize pure income for our church. Please look at our needs list in this issue and help us have a successful festival by providing your donation, whether large or small. If we all help, our success this year is guaranteed!

Faithfully yours,

*Father Dina*

# Meet Our New Pastoral Assistant

Christo Pappademos is a recent graduate of the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Seminary in Brookline, Massachusetts. From Elk Grove originally, Christo grew up locally attending Franklin High School where he played football all four years. After high school Christo attended San Diego State and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. It was during his final year of college that Christo realized he wanted to pursue the priesthood, so after college he worked for two years as a high school football coach and substitute teacher to save money before moving to Boston to enroll at the Seminary.

It was during his time as a football coach and teacher that Christo discovered his passion for working with youth. So to continue this passion Christo served as a camp counselor at Ionian Village, the St. Nicholas Ranch, and at the Ascension Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Oakland Camp Ravencliff during his summers while attending the Seminary. In addition, Christo has offered workshops for the past three years at FDF to speak with the kids of our San Francisco Metropolis about how to engage in the Faith in daily life.

Christo is very excited to return to Saint Katherine to now work for the community that has supported him throughout each phase of his life. He is looking forward to taking all he has learned and experienced and devoting it to our community.

## Youth Programs

While our new Pastoral Assistant will be responsible for assisting Father Dino in all aspects of parish life, Christo's main focus at Saint Katherine will be developing new programs and activities for the wonderful youth of our community. Saint Katherine has a strong and healthy Greek Dance program and through this Christo hopes to develop other programs to offer our youth. Christo will soon be meeting with the parents of our community to hear their visions for future youth programs.

Whether it be retreats, fun day trips, or involvement in existing Metropolis events, Christo is excited to work with the kids of our community. Having grown up at Saint Katherine himself, Christo knows the value of joyful experiences and memories with friends at church and can't wait to provide more of these for our kids.

**S**TEWARDSHIP – 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!

**Y**OUTH 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. 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.

**A**N EVENING IN GREECE – We will celebrate our third annual Evening in Greece on *Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>* 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 \$35 per person or \$350 per table and must be purchased before August 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

**T**REE 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.

**N**EW BRASS HANDRAILS AT THE ALTAR – We have received several donations recently, to provide and install new brass handrails to replace the existing ones at the soleas in front of the Altar in our beautiful church. At the same time, we will install two additional handrails toward the center of the soleas, to facilitate parishioners as they approach for Holy Communion. The design has been completed and a local blacksmithing firm in West Sacramento is in the process of fabricating them. We hope to have them installed before the festival this year!

**O**RTHROS CHANTED NOW EVERY SUNDAY – Now that we have hired a new Pastoral Assistant, we will be able to chant the beautiful Orthros services every Sunday morning before the Divine Liturgy. The Orthros will start at 8:30 AM each Sunday and before major feast day Liturgies during the week. Come early to hear the beautiful hymns that emphasize the resurrection of Christ or details of each feast being celebrated.

# THE ASSUMPTION OF THE THEOTOKOS

On August 15<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate one of the most beloved holidays of our Orthodox faith, the Assumption of the Virgin Mary. Out of a sense of piety and respect, we never refer to Mary's passing from this world as her death. Instead, we say that she "fell asleep." However, there is something even more important happening on this day. Rather than being buried like everyone else, something different happened to Mary. Because she was Jesus' mother and because of her unique closeness to and faith in God, the Lord had something different in mind for her.

Mary, the mother of our Lord is the first and chief among the saints. She is the "Panayia," the "All-Holy" and because of this, she gives us the most complete model of the true Christian: not only for women, but for all Christians – men and women, young and old.

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we discover several things about Mary. She was not chosen arbitrarily to give birth to Jesus Christ. Rather, from Luke's account, we find out that the "Lord was with her," that she was full of grace (keharitomeni) and that she had "found favor with God." In other words, she was chosen by God to be the human mother of Jesus because she was a special person – a person who truly loved God. She was devoted in prayer and personal commitment to God and she lived in communion with Him. It is also important to remember that when the angel told Mary what was to take place, she did not accept it blindly. She inquired so as to understand what God was doing and how it was to happen. Thus she is an example to all, not of blind and unreasoning faith and obedience, but of a faith which includes the whole person including the mind.

Regarding the feast of the "Koimisis" or the "Falling Asleep" of the Theotokos, there can be no doubt that the Orthodox Church accepts and believes in the bodily Assumption of the Theotokos into heaven at her death. And although (unlike the Roman Catholic Church) Orthodoxy has never proclaimed it as dogma, there is still a need to understand what is meant by the "Assumption of the Theotokos."

Mary, we believe, is the Panagia, who to a very high degree has realized that perfection and "God-like-ness" or theosis/deification that God desires for all mankind. Having understood this, understanding the belief in her bodily Assumption is only a small step. At the Assumption, this fullness of deification – this purity and inner glory of soul was made outwardly manifest in her body, which was received into heaven. In other words, her body was made fully "spiritual." At her death she was taken up, body and soul, into heaven by Christ Himself. A human being, so scripture teaches, is not a soul imprisoned in a body, but a unity of body and soul; the body is to be redeemed and deified as well as the soul. All pious Christians, therefore, await the resurrection from the dead, when their bodies will rise again, transfigured and glorified.

We will celebrate this extraordinary event with the Divine Liturgy on Wednesday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.



# AN EVENING IN GREECE

Saturday

August 18, 2018

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 13<sup>th</sup>:**


-\$35 per person (children under 12 - \$10) – OR –

-\$350 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

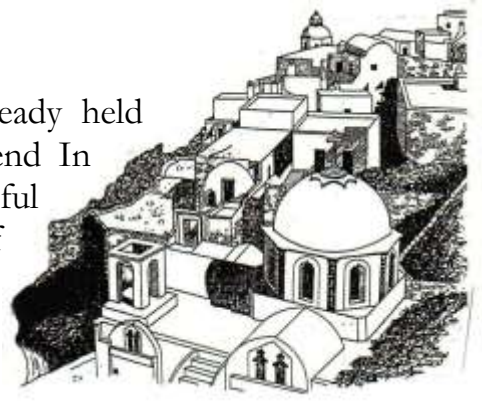
For more information, call: (916) 683 – 3443



# Festival Cooking Schedule

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

Item	Date and Time
Koulourakia	Monday, July 9 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Kourambiedes	Tuesday, July 10 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Dolmades	Monday, July 16 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM Tuesday, July 17 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Vegetarian Moussaka	Friday, July 27 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Spanakopita	Monday, July 30 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM Tuesday, July 31 <sup>st</sup> at 9 AM
Tiropita	Tuesday, August 7 <sup>th</sup> at 9AM
Weekend In Greece Glendi	Saturday, August 18 <sup>th</sup> at 6PM
Baklava (prepare)	Tuesday, August 21 <sup>st</sup> at 9AM
Pastitsio	Wednesday, August 22 <sup>nd</sup> at 9 AM Thursday, August 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 9 AM Friday, August 24 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Paximadakia	Tuesday, September 4 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Melomakarona (prepare and bake) & Karithopita	Tuesday, September 11 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Diples (prepare and bake)	Thursday, September 13 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Baklava (syrup)	Sunday, September 16 <sup>th</sup> at noon
Karithopita	Tuesday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> at noon
Melomakarona (dip in honey)	Tuesday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Tsourekia Baklava (bake)	Tuesday, September 18 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Galatouboureko	Wednesday, September 19 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM
Diples (dip in honey)	Thursday, September 20 <sup>th</sup> at 9 AM

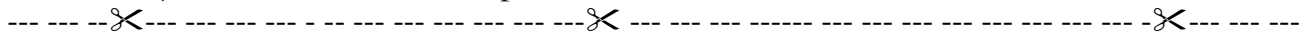


# FESTIVAL PREPARATIONS – We have already held

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 21 – 23. 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 20<sup>th</sup>.** 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.: \$1,200
- 2) Donations for tables, chairs and tent rental: \$4,000
- 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



## 2018 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!)*



# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 31<sup>st</sup> 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, Wednesday—Lenten fasting period begins for the feast of the Assumption of the Theotokos, Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 2, Thursday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 3, Friday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 6, Monday – Divine Liturgy, The Feast of the Transfiguration, 10 AM.  
August 7, Tuesday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 8, Wednesday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 9, Thursday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 10, Friday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 13, Monday – Paraclesis Service, 10 AM (Supplications to the Virgin Mary).  
August 14, Tuesday – Great Vespers for the Feast of the Assumption, 7 PM.  
August 15, Wednesday – Divine Liturgy, the Assumption of the Theotokos, 10 AM.  
August 18, Saturday – “**An Evening in Greece**” with dinner and music 6/7 PM, outside on the festival grounds.  
September 14, Friday – Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Holy Cross, 10 AM.  
September 20, Thursday – Set up for Weekend in Greece, 10 AM.  
September 21, 22, 23 – Our Annual Festival, “**A Weekend In Greece!**”



**St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church**  
9165 Peets Street  
Elk Grove, CA 95758

*Time Dated Material*

**Non-Profit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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