



SAINT KATHERINE CHRONICLE

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER
2011



A Word from your Pastor

Over the years, I have attended many seminars on the topic of parish stewardship and administration where various presentations regarding the financial details of parish life were given. While each one was unique, they all shared a common thread. Specifically, they emphasized an approach to fundraising that is commonly used by professional fundraising consultants. Their pitch was that a successful stewardship program can only happen when each family is visited by a stewardship committee and urged to give a significant donation for the following year. They also usually mention how important it is to focus on the wealthiest parishioners to get the best results.

My frustration with these seminars has grown to the point where I refuse to attend them any more. Even when I would offer another approach to stewardship and administration during the question and answer periods, my ideas were usually dismissed as being invalid.

Consequently, what I would like to do this month is to discuss in general terms, the approach we have taken here at Saint Katherine over the past 23 years when it comes to stewardship giving and parish administration. It is a unique approach, to be sure, but I believe it has produced some tangible results.

We start by saying that everyone is encouraged to offer what they are able to each year, to ensure that God's work continues to be done through our parish. We also like to suggest that all families consider dedicating at least one dollar each day for God. Over the years we have seen stewardship giving ranging from a very minimal amount to over \$10,000 for the year from various families. But regardless of the amount anyone may offer to support the work of Saint Katherine, we make sure that everyone is treated the same. All families are treated with love and respect no matter how much they give.

The second key point to our approach to stewardship is this: people give money to support the church in the same way that they give money for anything else...when they know that their giving has value. Nobody, not even a millionaire, likes to waste

money. If parishioners see results from their giving, they will continue to support a parish. If it doesn't seem like their money is producing something of value, or if it seems that their donations are not being used wisely, they'll stop. It's that simple. Guilt never produces anything of lasting value. Trying to force someone to make a stewardship offering by making them feel guilty simply doesn't work in the long term.

But people will respond if they see that the focus of a parish is solidly on God and that lives are being changed, either directly or indirectly, by the work that goes on in that parish. When it comes to the church experience, deep down everyone asks the same questions: Is the worship spiritually inspiring and offered with dignity? Is the sermon relevant to today's life while staying true to scripture and Orthodox teaching? Does the behavior of the people in the congregation reflect the Christian values that the Church teaches? Is the community a welcoming one? Are there activities offered that serve to reinforce the values of the parish? Is there a sense of joy present in the parish?

The answers each of us has to those questions will in large part determine the amount of support we are willing to offer our parish. After that, each of us looks to determine whether donations are being used wisely. And that brings us to the subject of our parish administration.

We started 23 years ago with very humble beginnings in a warehouse and just a handful of people. And believe it or not, we have the same structure of parish administration now with 300 families as we did then – Father Dino and volunteers. As a matter of fact, I can't really think of any other parishes our size that don't have at least a secretary or administrator or something. But, we don't. It's just me and a lot of very helpful members of the parish that enthusiastically step forward time and time again to do all sorts of things to keep our Saint Katherine parish going...secretarial duties, maintenance duties, and all sorts of other things.

We may not get everything done immediately but things do get done. And that spirit of helping spills over even to our parish organizations and activities. The result is that many of us have developed a sense of ownership and belonging to Saint Katherine and its ministries. Whether it is with our youth programs or charitable work or fundraising efforts, I have seen a beautiful trend of involvement develop with so many families over the years that I can't help but thank God for His goodness and blessings.

And that brings me to my final point about our stewardship and administrative approach here at Saint Katherine: Many churches try the newest trends in parish organization, but I have found that only God can renew and invigorate a community. If we stay close to Him, He'll be close to us and bless us over and over again with progress and spiritual growth.

Faithfully yours,

Father Dino

PARISH NOTES

Church Office ☎ 683-3443 / Church fax 683-3389

Father Dino's Home ☎

website: www.saintkatherine.org / e-mail address: pappademos@saintkatherine.org

STEWARDSHIP—We will be sending the new 2012 Stewardship pledge cards to you in the mail within the next few days. Please give prayerful consideration in your pledge to support Saint Katherine in the coming year. Remember, your stewardship offerings can be made by check or through Paypal or credit card at our parish website www.saintkatherine.org. Thank you for your giving to God's work through our Saint Katherine parish.

WEEKEND IN GREECE—Sincere appreciation and congratulations are extended to all the hard-working parishioners who served as committee leaders, set up, cleaned up, cooked, served, danced, donated, advertised, and supported our festival this year. Our preliminary reports show that our Weekend in Greece continued the historical trend of increased success year to year. Our total income from the festival was \$87,060 with expenses of \$14,355 which leaves a net income of \$72,705 for Saint Katherine...another record. Again, many thanks to all who worked hard to make this year's festival so successful!

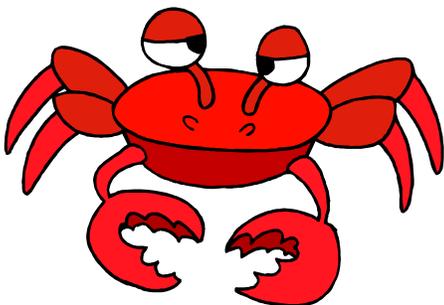
AUTUMN GENERAL ASSEMBLY—Will be held on Sunday, November 20th, 2011, during Coffee Hour in the Tsakopoulos Hall. The annual budget will be presented for 2012 and nominations will be accepted for election to our Parish Council next year. We encourage everyone to attend this informative meeting.

THE FEAST OF SAINT KATHERINE—This year, our Divine Liturgy celebrating the Feast of Saint Katherine will take place on the Friday, November 25th, the day after Thanksgiving, followed by a reception in Tsakopoulos Hall. Area clergy have been invited to attend this Liturgy, so please join us! Because of the Thanksgiving holiday, there will be no vesper service this year.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD—Be sure to complete the Christmas card form and return it soon in order to be included in our annual Saint Katherine Christmas card. This is a wonderful way to send holiday greetings to your fellow Saint Katherine parishioners.

SAINT KATHERINE KNITTING AND CROCHETING CIRCLE—Invites you every first Saturday of each month at 10 AM, in the small hall. Come, let's learn and have fun together!

SAVE THE DATE! Our annual Saint Katherine Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, January 21st, 2012, in Tsakopoulos Hall! Call the church office at 683-3443 to reserve your table or tickets and make plans to donate a unique or special auction or raffle item!



Don't miss the Annual
Saint Katherine Crab Feed!
Saturday January 21st, 2012
Tickets available by calling
The Church Office 683-3443.

SAINT KATHERINE SUMMER OFFERING

Warm thanks to the following parishioners who responded to our call for donations to help Saint Katherine during the financially lean summer months. A total of over \$13,000 was offered this past summer, which went a long way to get us through that difficult period. Thank you for your generous support!

Abraham & Sonata Abbott, Ms. Alison Aleman, Kosmas & Anastasia Andritsakis, Ray Brightman, Richard & Diane Bueche, Art & Elaine Daniels, Donn & Susan Dawson, William & Suzanne Demas, Jelmer & Anastasia Eerkens, Andrew Engilis, Robert & Leah Essa, John & Sophia Evrigenis, John & Mary Kyriakides, Helen Gianakakis, Konstantino & Sophia Giourousis, Alex & Sophia Goetze, Xavier & Isabel Granados, Chariclia Handlin, Henry & Athina Holland, Stephen & Lydia Howell, Dave & Mary Johns, Rosemary Johnston, Paul Kakouris, Alec & Georgia Karnezis, Jim & Vee Karnezis, Terry & Penny Kastanis, Lefteris & Alexia Kavros, Yeshi Kibreab, Pantel Kokiousis, George & Bessie Kokkinis, George & Mary Kondos, Tyke & Dena Kuchulis, Leo & Vasiliki Lewis, George & Iva Lionakis, James & Bessie Makris, Stanley Makris, Fotula Malas, Helen Mayberry, Matthew Mayberry, Ernest & Gay O'Banion, Nick & Anna Panagakos, Ted & Karen Pantazis, Elaine Pavlatos, Anne Petras, Bessie Pothos, Sophia Potiris, Brad & Georgia Wenger, Daniel Mason, Tom & Carol Robinson, Mireille Ruppe, Donald & Mary Savage, James & Anna Scaife, George & Mary Stanley, Evangelos & Sue Tsorakis, Richard & Antigone Vaccaro, Helen Varkados, Mary Vasos, Jeff & Aretina Wallace, Sophia Zogopoulos.

PROSFORON SCHEDULE

| | | | | | |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Christine Economy: | Nov. 6, | Dec. 18, | Jan. 29, | Mar. 11, | Apr. 22 |
| Sevasti Hatzopoulos: | Nov. 13, | Dec. 25, | Feb. 5, | Mar. 18, | Apr. 29 |
| Anna Papajohn: | Nov. 20, | Jan. 1, | Feb. 12, | Mar. 25, | May 6 |
| Eleni Vathis: | Nov. 27, | Jan. 8, | Feb. 19, | Apr. 1, | May 13 |
| Athanasia Manikas: | Dec. 4, | Jan. 15, | Feb. 26, | Apr. 8, | May 20 |
| Eleni Camperos: | Dec. 11, | Jan. 22, | Mar. 4, | Apr. 15, | May 27 |



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. Serving in the Altar can be a very positive experience that will stay with a young man for the rest of his life. Nothing else can convey a sense of appreciation for holy things, a reverence for God and the spiritual life quite the same as serving as an Acolyte in the Holy Altar. Each acolyte should alternate one Sunday of service in the Holy Altar with one Sunday in attendance in Sunday School. For more information and to enroll your son as an Acolyte, simply contact Father Dino.

Philoptochos News

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. Additionally, the Philoptochos general fund contributes to the following local charities: WIND (Homeless teens), Elk Grove Food Closet and WEAVE. Please contact Mary Kondos, President, or one of the Circle leaders listed below for information about becoming a member.

- ✦ **Abigail Circle** – Athina Holland / Mireille Ruppe
- ✦ **Anna Circle** – Alison Alemán / Carol Robinson
- ✦ **Mary Magdeline Circle** – Presvytera Chrisoula / Kia Balalis
- ✦ **Rachel Circle** – Mary Kondos
- ✦ **Rebecca Circle** – Diane Petersen / Erica Tatarakis
- ✦ **Susanna Circle** – Alexia Kavros/Elaine Pavlatos

We thank everyone for supporting us in our important charitable work! We also would like to invite you to consider offering a Sunday Coffee Hour in memory or in honor of a loved one, a birthday or anniversary. Please call Mary Kondos (457-2196) or Presvytera Chrisoula (684-8731) to book a Sunday. Thank you!

Philoptochos will be holding its annual Christmas Boutique on December 4, 11 and 18, 2011, following Divine Liturgy, in the Tsakopoulos Hall. Stop by to pick up some wonderful Christmas gift items!

SAVE THE FOLLOWING IMPORTANT DATES: Vasilopeta Luncheon on January 8, 2012; Philoptochos Membership Coffee Hour on February 12, 2012; Palm Sunday Luncheon on April 8, 2012; and Mother’s Day Luncheon on May 12, 2012.



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE ORDER FORM



December 2011

| | Qty. | Amount |
|---|-------|----------|
| Baklava \$2 each | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Pan of baklava (48 pieces) \$96 | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Malomacarouna \$1 each | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Paximadia \$5 per dozen | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Koulourakia \$5 per dozen | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Mixed box Paximadia/Koulourakia \$10/two doz. | _____ | \$ _____ |
| Kourambiethes 2 for \$3 | _____ | \$ _____ |

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

Please make check payable to Saint Katherine Philoptochos & return it by December 11th to Athina Holland or mail it with your payment to Saint Katherine Philoptochos, 9165 Peets Street, Elk Grove, CA 95758. Pick-up day is Sunday, December 18th.

Orthodox Memorial Services

Set me as a seal upon your heart; for love is as strong as death. (Song of Songs 8:6)

Prayer for the dead is seen by Orthodox Christians as an essential component of our faith in Jesus Christ. Praying for those who have died is not merely an expression of mourning, it is a proclamation that Christ has risen from the dead and that, in His love, even death cannot separate us from one another! Forty days after the death of a loved one (or on the Sunday nearest to the 40 days), it is the custom of our Church to celebrate a prayer service in remembrance of the deceased known in English as a Memorial Service. In this service we ask God to “grant rest” to the deceased “in the bosom of Abraham” (Luke 16:22-23) and to place him or her “in a place of light, a place of happiness, a place of refreshment, where there is no pain, no sorrow and no suffering” (Revelation 21:4) as we did during the funeral service.

A tray of boiled wheat, raisins and powdered sugar called “*kolyva*” in Greek is prepared for the service and is later, at the parish coffee hour, distributed to the community. This practice is based on the words that the Lord Jesus used to describe His own death and resurrection, “Amen, I say to you: unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains a single grain of wheat. But if it dies, it brings forth a good harvest” (John 12:24). The tray of *kolyva* is a symbol of our faith in the life-giving death and resurrection of Christ.

“For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord.

So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Romans 14:8)

MEMORIAL FLAME -- If you would like to have the Memorial Flame on the Holy Altar Table burn in memory of a loved one on a specific day, please send your donation together with a note of explanation and the date requested to the church office.

- † On Monday, August 15, 2011, Isabel Granados offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her beloved mother, Panayiotoula Canakes, 32 years since her passing.
- † On Friday, August 26, 2011, the Memorial Flame burned in memory Claire Santrizos, 7 years since her passing, and was offered by her children, Judith and Charley Santrizos.
- † On Sunday, August 28, 2011, Rosemary Johnston, offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her beloved mother, Mary Cihos, 11 years since her passing.
- † On Sunday, September 18, 2011, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame was offered in memory of Peter George Canakes, 25 years since his passing, and was offered by his sister Isabel Canakes Granados.
- † On Friday, September 23, 2011, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame was offered in memory of Bill Ballas, 12 years since his passing, and was offered by his wife Mary and his children.
- † On Wednesday, July 6, 2011, Maria Karkazis offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her husband, Tasso Karkazis, six months since his passing.
- † On Thursday, October 6, 2011, Maria Karkazis offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her husband, Tasso Karkazis, nine months since his passing.
- † On Thursday, October 13, 2011, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame was offered in memory of Georgia Apostolos, 4 years since her passing, by her son and daughter-in-law Dan and Athena Apostolos.
- † On Sunday, October 23, 2011, Popi Anagnos offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her beloved mother Stamata Maneta, 2 years since her passing.

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, and Twitter, as described below.

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. 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

Our website also offers the Weekly Announcements and some of Father Dino’s sermons, Daily Bible Readings courtesy of the Archdiocese, and other information.

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 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. 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. To create one, go to www.facebook.com and follow the instructions to sign up. Then, to subscribe to our Facebook pages, go to the addresses above and click the “Like” button on each page. You can also find our photos and video at saintkatherine.shutterfly.org. If you’re on Twitter, follow our Festival account at www.twitter.com/eggreekfestival.

If you have questions or need assistance subscribing to our email list, please contact our Webmaster Enrico Carrieri at webmaster@saintkatherine.org or (916) 859-0921. For assistance with Facebook or Twitter, contact our social media specialist Jamie Carrieri at jamie.carrieri@yahoo.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov. 13, Sunday – Saint Katherine Nameday Luncheon, Tsakopoulos Hall, following Divine Liturgy.

Nov. 15, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM; Christmas Lent begins.

Nov. 20, Sunday – Autumn General Assembly, Tsakopoulos Hall, following Divine Liturgy.

Nov. 22, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM

Nov. 24, Thursday – Thanksgiving Day

Nov. 25, Friday – Feast of Saint Katherine Divine Liturgy, 10 AM (No Vespers on Nov. 24)

Nov. 29, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM

Dec. 4, Sunday – Philoptochos Meeting & Christmas Boutique, following Divine Liturgy

Dec. 6, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM

Dec. 11, Sunday – Philoptochos Christmas Boutique, following Divine Liturgy

Dec. 13, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM

Dec. 18, Sunday – Sunday School Christmas Program; Philoptochos Bake Sale Pick-up & Christmas Boutique, following the Divine Liturgy

Dec. 20, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM

Dec. 25, Sunday – Christmas Morning Divine Liturgy

Jan. 8, Sunday – Vasilopita Luncheon, following Divine Liturgy

Jan. 21, Saturday – Saint Katherine Annual Crab Feed



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

Time Dated Material

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