



SAINT KATHERINE CHRONICLE

JANUARY—APRIL 2012



A Word from your Pastor

From early in our lives, we have been trained to know that in order to achieve something, we need to meet certain goals and accomplish certain tasks. If we wanted good grades in school, we had to study hard and complete all our homework. Then later in life, the same concept became reinforced...get a good job, work hard, make a good living, and show some type of accomplishment. Complete a task, get a reward.

That system works great in education or in the business world, but it becomes problematic when it comes to our spiritual life. A strong faith or a feeling of closeness to God does not always come as a result of accomplishing something or doing something. As a matter of fact, sometimes when we strive hardest in our faith by doing this or that, we can feel far away from God. Then on the other hand, there are times when we aren't really expecting anything special that we have moments of closeness to the Lord. Sometimes His blessings come to us one after another when we least expect them.

Saint Gregory of Nyssa, who lived in the 4th century and was the brother of Saint Basil the Great, noticed this very thing. He wrote that when it comes to faith in God, perfection does not consist in accomplishment; it is not like the stone carved by the sculptor. The perfect act consists in performing a perpetual flight toward the throne of God. In other words, having faith in God is not like anything else we do. Our devotion to Him and our belief that He exists and that He loves us is what matters, not how many boxes we check on our "Being a Good Christian" list. Saint Gregory says that the soul of a devout person goes beyond itself and yet remains unmoving. Faith in God is a landscape of paradox or mystery.

What is the goal then, for us as Christians? According to Saint Gregory of Nyssa it is an unyielding dedication to the things of God. We move forward toward God in our heart and mind, and yet there is no movement at all. The eternal pursuit of Him, endlessly renewed, is the discovery of God. The endless desire for Him is itself the sight of Him. And in the flight toward God there is no fluttering of wings, only an unmoving motion, an enraptured progress around a center.



These types of thoughts about God that Saint Gregory expresses are beautiful and abstract, comforting...yet hard to fully understand. Why? Because God is so much greater than we are. And the things of God are so much more intricate and different than the ordinary things in our lives.

Each day can seem for us, like trying to climb a steep sandy slope. We move our legs as fast as we can, but it doesn't do much good because the sand keeps falling around us and we remain at the bottom. There is wasted movement and no progress. But as the Psalmist says, when we set our "feet on a rock" (Psalm 40:2), – and for us the rock is Christ – then our progress will be sure and steadfast, anchored in goodness.

When our life is anchored on the rock of Christ's love and goodness, we begin to expend spiritual energy. And the good news is that our spiritual energy increases the more we expend it.

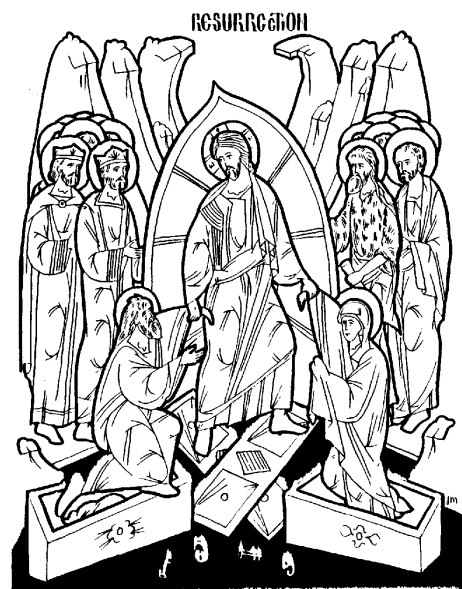
This is the wonderful thing about our relationship to God...it's not like going to school or earning a living. It is completely different, hard to express with words, but more beautiful in its simplicity than anything else around us.

And that, in a nutshell, is what Great Lent is all about. Lent has been described as a spiritual journey and as a refocusing of our life. But perhaps we should think of Great Lent more as performing a perpetual flight around the throne of God where there is no fluttering of wings, only an unmoving motion, and an enraptured progress around a center. Fasting, praying, attending the special services and helping those around us more, are all there to help us use more of our spiritual energy which increases the more we use it.

Then, the celebration of Easter becomes for us more than just another holiday like the 4th of July only with lamb. For us, the celebration of Christ's resurrection becomes an opportunity for us to get a vision of God that we will never cease to desire.

Faithfully yours,

Father Dina



PARISH NOTES

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

Father Dino's Home ☎

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

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL – We welcome the new members of our Parish Council who were elected this past December and the returning members. The members of the 2012 Saint Katherine Parish Council are as follows: Theodore Pantazis, President; Enrico Carrieri, Vice President; Richard Bueche, Treasurer; Marie Buric, Secretary; Michael Makrakis, Matt Mayberry and Thomas Mouzes. 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 there.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD – Sincere appreciation is expressed to everyone who participated in our Parish Christmas card in December. The card contained the names and holiday wishes from many of our families and generated a total offering of just over \$5,500. Just after the card went to press, we also received offerings from Dan and Maria Kaufman as well as Sofia & Gianna Brunie/Thorsen Gustafsson. We thank them and everyone who participated, for their generous Christmas offering.

A SUCCESSFUL CRAB FEED INDEED! – Many thanks to Crab Feed Chairperson, Christine Kockinis, for organizing one of our most successful Crab Feeds in recent years, with just over \$21,500 in net proceeds to Saint Katherine! Christine writes:

I am very proud and happy to report the outstanding success of this year's crab feed. The credit goes to our generous donors, volunteers, committee chairs, parish council, Philoptochos society, GOYA and especially to all those who attended. Each and every member of our church family can be equally proud of the huge success of the Saint Katherine 2011 crab feed. Thank you all very much!

-- Christine Kockinis, 2012 crab feed chairperson

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 Sunday or to Athina Holland by April 8th, and join us after we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this year.

Philoptochos News

We invite all the women in the Parish to become a member of Philoptochos in 2012. 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.

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

Additionally, the Joanna Circle is a newly formed Philoptochos circle centered on education and children's ministries. As such, we focus on the following:

- *BRINGING young women together who share a desire to promote education in the community.
- *HOSTING gatherings in the home four times a year to presentations from Father Dino and others.
- *SERVING and SUPPORTING our community by focusing on education and Greek Orthodox educational scholarship opportunities.
- *ASSISTING with Joanna Circle fund-raising opportunities and helping other Circles with Philoptochos events such as coffee hours.

Each member would contribute in a self-directed area of interest but would assist the Circle as a whole. We look forward to outreach and broad participation among the young women of our parish.

JOANNA was one of the women who accompanied Jesus on His last journey from Galilee to Jerusalem, and was present when His body was laid in the sepulcher (Luke 23:55). She was thus among those who prepared spices and ointments, who found the grave empty, and who "told these things unto the apostles" (Luke 23: 56-24:10).

For more information, please contact co-leaders Alexia Kavros at 916, giagiabea@aol.com, and Sophia Stathos at 916, Sophia.stathos@hotmail.com.

SAVE THE DATES: PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP COFFEE HOUR on Sunday, February 12, 2012; PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON on April 8, 2012; and MOTHER'S DAY LUNCHEON on May 12, 2012.

Philoptochos thanks everyone for supporting us in all our endeavors! We ask that you help us by offering the Sunday Coffee Hour in memory or in honor of a loved one, a birthday or anniversary. Please call Mary Kondos () or Presvytera Chrisoula () to book a Sunday. Thank you!

PROSPHORON SCHEDULE

Anna Papajohn:	Jan. 1,	Feb. 12,	Mar. 25,	May 6
Eleni Vathis:	Jan. 8,	Feb. 19,	Apr. 1,	May 13
Athanasia Manikas:	Jan. 15,	Feb. 26,	Apr. 8,	May 20
Eleni Camperos:	Jan. 22,	Mar. 4,	Apr. 15,	May 27
Christine Economy:	Jan. 29,	Mar. 11,	Apr. 22.	June 3
Sevasti Hatzopoulos:	Feb. 5,	Mar. 18,	Apr. 29	June 10

Religious Education

Sunday School Schedule of Events

February 27 – Pure Monday

March 4 – The Sunday of Orthodoxy, icon procession following the Divine Liturgy.

April 6 – Tie Palm Crosses with Father Dino in the Sunday School room, beginning at 6 PM.

April 7 – Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy with Confessions following.

April 8 – Palm Sunday Easter Egg Hunt following the Divine Liturgy.

April 15 – Easter Sunday, no Sunday School classes.

May 6 – Sunday School Graduation in church following the Divine Liturgy.

On the Sunday of Orthodoxy, March 4th, our children are invited to bring an icon to participate in the procession of holy icons following the Divine Liturgy. In addition, the children will have an opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Holy Confession from Father Dino on the Saturday of Lazarus, April 7th, following the Diving Liturgy at 10 AM. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will take place the next day after the Palm Sunday Liturgy.

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. 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.

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Saint Katherine Philoptochos Easter Bake Sale

Orders forms must be submitted by Sunday, April 1st. Items can be picked up on Palm Sunday, April 8th.

Qty.		Sub Totals
_____ dz.	Koulourakia - \$5 per dozen =	\$ _____
_____ ea.	Tsoureki Bread x \$8 per loaf =	_____
_____	Baklava x \$100 per whole sheet =	_____
_____	Baklava x \$50 per half sheet =	_____
_____ ea.	Baklava x \$1.50 per piece =	_____
_____ dz.	Red Easter Eggs - \$3 per dozen =	_____

Total Enclosed = \$ _____

Name: _____ Phone # _____

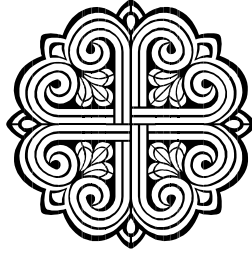
Return in person by April 1st or mail to Philoptochos, 9165 Peets Street, Elk Grove, CA 95758

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, October 3rd, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame burned in memory of Jennifer Elizabeth Jenkins, 11 years since her passing, and was offered by her mother Georgia Jenkins-Wenger and grandmother Isabel Granados.
- † On Wednesday, November 16th, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame burned in memory of Jennifer Elizabeth Jenkins, 11 years since her passing on what would have been her 28th birthday, and was offered by her mother Georgia Jenkins-Wenger and grandmother Isabel Granados.
- † On Friday, November 25, 2011, the Memorial Flame burned in memory of Catherine Canakes, beloved sister, aunt and God-mother on her name day, 25 years since her passing, and was offered by her sister Isabel Granados, her nephew Greg Stathos, her niece Georgia Jenkins-Wenger and her God-son James Jenkins.
- † On Monday, December 12, 2011, Popi Anagnos offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her beloved husband Gus Anagnos, 4 years since his passing.
- † On Christmas Day, December 25, 2011, Sue Tsorakis offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her beloved father Raymond August Minardi, 44 years since his passing, and her beloved mother Irene Jane Minardi, 25 years since her passing.
- † On Christmas Day, December 25, 2011, Jim and Eleni Camperos offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of their beloved parents.
- † On Christmas Day, December 25, 2011, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame burned in memory of Jennifer Elizabeth Jenkins, and was offered by her mother Georgia Jenkins-Wenger and grandmother Isabel Granados.
- † On New Year's Day, January 1, 2012, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame burned in memory of Jennifer Elizabeth Jenkins, and was offered by her mother Georgia Jenkins-Wenger and grandmother Isabel Granados.
- † On Sunday, January 15th, Maria Karkazis offered the Memorial Flame in memory of her beloved husband, Tasso, on the first anniversary of his passing.
- † On Sunday January 22nd, the Memorial Flame burned in memory of Spero Jouganatos, 40 days since his passing, and was offered by his daughter and granddaughter, Anna and Angeliki Jouganatos.
- † On Wednesday, January 25th, Sophia Zogopoulos offered the Memorial Flame in memory of her beloved husband, Angelo, on what was his birthday.
- † On Wednesday, February 1st, the Memorial Flame burned in memory of Lou Keriotis, 6 years since his passing, and was offered by his loving wife, Connie and family.
- † Also on Wednesday, February 1st, Louise Fidler, along with her daughters, Cathy, Karen and their families offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of their beloved mother and grandmother, Alexandra B. Huff, 4 years since her passing.
- † On Thursday, February 2nd, the Memorial Flame burned in memory of Gus Apostolos, 35 years since his passing and was offered by his son and daughter-in-law, Dan and Athena Apostolos.
- † On Saturday, March 3rd, Mireille Ruppe offered the Memorial Flame in memory of her late husband, Robert, 13 years since his passing, on what was his birthday.
- † On Thursday, March 15th, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame burned in memory of Ted Economy, 9 years since his passing, and was offered by his loving wife, Georgia.

2012

holy week and pascha services



April

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Feb. 27, Monday—Great Lent Begins
Feb. 28, Tuesday—Bible Study, 10 AM
Feb. 29, Wednesday—Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 10 AM
Mar. 2, Friday—1st Stanza of Salutations to the Virgin Mary, Α' ΧΑΙΠΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ, 7 PM.
Mar. 4, Sunday—The Sunday of Orthodoxy and procession of icons. Also, the Pan-Orthodox Vesper Services & reception at Ascension Russian Orthodox Church with clergy attending, 7 PM.
Mar. 6, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM; Senior League Luncheon 11:30 AM
Mar. 7, Wednesday – Presanctified Liturgy, 10 AM.
Mar. 9, Friday – 2nd Stanza of Salutations to the Virgin Mary, Β' ΧΑΙΠΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ, 7 PM.
Mar. 13, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM; Parish Council meeting, 7 PM
Mar. 14, Wednesday – Presanctified Liturgy, 10 PM.
Mar. 16, Friday –3rd Stanza of Salutations to the Virgin Mary, Γ' ΧΑΙΠΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ, 7 PM.
Mar. 18, Sunday – The Veneration of the Holy Cross. Procession of the Holy Cross with Spring flowers.
Mar. 20, Tuesday—Bible Study, 10 AM
Mar. 21, Wednesday—Presanctified Liturgy, 10 AM
Mar. 23, Friday—4th Stanza of Salutations to the Virgin Mary, Δ' ΧΑΙΠΕΤΙΣΜΟΙ, 7 PM.
Mar. 27, Tuesday—Bible Study, 10 AM
Mar. 28, Wednesday—Presanctified Liturgy, 10 AM
Mar. 30, Friday—The Akathist Hymn in its entirety, Ο ΑΚΑΘΙΣΤΟΣ ΥΜΝΟΣ, 7 PM.
April 3, Tuesday – Bible Study, 10 AM; Senior League Luncheon 11:30 AM
April 4, Wednesday—Presanctified Liturgy, 10 AM
April 6, Friday—Tie Palm Crosses, 6 PM
April 7, Saturday—Divine Liturgy—Saturday of Lazarus, 10 AM; Sacrament of Confession following.
April 8th to 15th – HOLY WEEK AND EASTER. Please refer to the Holy Week Schedule in this issue of the newsletter for a complete listing of services throughout the week.

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

Time Dated Material

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