



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

Spring 2021

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## *A Word from your Pastor*

I came across some good news recently. I saw an article that cited a professor from Johns Hopkins School of Medicine and Bloomberg School of Public Health, who said that COVID cases are down 77 percent over the past two months. Dr. Mark Makary said that even though we've passed 500,000 deaths from COVID, there is a light at the end of the tunnel, due to the rapid development and distribution of effective vaccines. And he predicts that Covid-19 will be mostly gone by April! His prediction is based on laboratory data, mathematical data, published literature and conversations with experts. That is good news.

But I have some GOOD NEWS that is even better...the GOOD NEWS of Jesus Christ. What exactly is it? It is simply His resurrection that we celebrate at Easter time. Why is it good news? Because when Jesus was killed and then after three days rose from the tomb – completely alive – He showed everyone that he had the power to defeat our worst enemy, death. And by doing that, He also showed us that if we followed Him, He would lead us to eternal life. When it happened two thousand years ago, scripture tells us that everybody was talking about it. Then the disciples split up and spread the Good News of Christ's resurrection and eternal life to all the little villages and cities around the Mediterranean Sea.

Today, we've had an abundance of dreary and upsetting news, not only about the coronavirus, but about the economy, politics and social upheaval. And yet, the Good News of the resurrection overshadows all that other news. The Christian life has been lived throughout history under some of the most hostile conditions...Roman persecution, Communism, Islamic persecution and economic distress. And yet, Christians have maintained their faith in Christ because we know that our goal and focus in life goes beyond what happens in the secular world.

This Pascha, like every Easter, celebrates the fact that, no matter our circumstance or situation, our life and focus is lifted by the GOOD NEWS of eternal life with our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,

*Father Dino*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PARISH COUNCIL** – Due to coronavirus complications, we received permission to extend the term of our current Parish Council for another year. The members of the 2021 Saint Katherine Parish Council are as follows: James Scaife, President; Richard Bueche, Vice President; Tom Balalis, Treasurer; Perry Stathos, Secretary; Maria Aliferis-Gjerde, Mark Hallock, Melanie Hatzakos, and Carol Robinson. 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 Saint Katherine parish. It provides for over half of the funds we need to continue to do God’s work through our parish. So far, our average pledge is about \$1,000 per family 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 have not yet, to please send yours in this week, either by mail or our website.

**HOLY FRIDAY MYHRRBEARERS** – 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 at 7 PM. 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.

**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 10 legs of lamb we’ll be preparing, please mark your donation/check for \$35 “Easter lamb donation” in the memo and payable to Saint Katherine Church. Simply hand it to one of the ushers on any Sunday and join us after we celebrate the resurrection of Christ this year.

**VANGUARD CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS** – We received an interesting suggestion from a parishioner recently who has found an easy way to convert your appreciated assets to a special account with Vanguard Charitable systems and then donate any amount to Saint Katherine. There are significant tax benefits to donating appreciated stock, bonds or other assets to the church, by deducting the greater value as a charitable contribution instead of paying capital gains taxes on the appreciation. If you would like more information regarding this simple and beneficial process, please contact Father Dino who will provide you with links and a brief video outlining more details.

**FROM THE STICHERA OF THE RESURRECTION** – “When, early in the morning, the ointment-bearing women stood before the tomb of the Giver of Life, they saw an angel sitting on the stone and he spoke to them, saying: ‘Why do you seek the Living One among the dead? Why do you mourn as if the Incorruptible One had suffered corruption? Go to His disciples and proclaim the glad tidings that Christ is risen from the dead!’”

# 2021

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

SAINT KATHERINE CREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 9165 PEETS STREET, ELK GROVE, CA 95758

### April

23	FRIDAY EVENING	Tie Palm Crosses	6:30 PM
24	LAZARUS SATURDAY	Divine Liturgy Confessions following the Divine Liturgy.	10 AM
25	PALM SUNDAY	Divine Liturgy & luncheon	10 AM
26	HOLY MONDAY	Bridegroom Service	7 PM
27	HOLY TUESDAY	Bridegroom Service	7 PM
28	HOLY WEDNESDAY	Holy Unction Service	5:30 PM
29	HOLY THURSDAY	Divine Liturgy Holy Passion Service	10 AM 7 PM
30	HOLY FRIDAY	(Decorate Epitaphios) Descent from the Cross Service of Lamentations	9 AM 3 PM 7 PM

### May

1	HOLY SATURDAY	Divine Liturgy Resurrection Service	10 AM 11:45 PM
2	EASTER SUNDAY	Resurrection Liturgy (Paschal supper follows in church hall) Agape Vespers	12:01 AM 12 Noon

**ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! CHRIST IS RISEN!**

# MARK YOUR CALENDAR

**Psychosabbata** (Memorial Saturdays) 10 AM – Divine Liturgy followed by the Memorial Service. Only two services this year: March 6<sup>th</sup> and March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Presanctified Liturgies** – The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts beginning at 10 AM on the following Wednesdays: March 4<sup>th</sup>, March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Salutations to the Virgin Mary** (Χαιρετισμοί τῆς Θεοτόκου) will be chanted beginning at 7 PM on the following Fridays: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, April 2<sup>nd</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**The Akathist Hymn** (Ὁ Ακάθιστος Ὕμνος) will be chanted on Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.  
March 15<sup>th</sup> – Great Lent begins.

April 23<sup>rd</sup>, Friday – Tie Palm Crosses, 6:30 PM

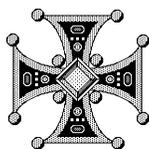
April 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday – Saturday of Lazarus, Divine Liturgy 10 AM; Sacrament of Confession following.

April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 2<sup>nd</sup> – HOLY WEEK AND EASTER. Please refer to the Holy Week Schedule in this issue for a complete listing of services throughout the week.

August 15<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Assumption of the Virgin Mary

August 22<sup>nd</sup> – “Evening in Greece” celebration / dinner and dancing.

September 25 – 26 – Our annual festival, “A Weekend in Greece!”



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

*Time Dated Material*

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