

SAINT KATHERINE CHRONICLE

1988 - 20th Anniversary - 2008

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2008

A Word from your Pastor

Proposition 8 would amend the California Constitution to provide that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

For two thousand years, Orthodox Christian theology has been clear on the nature of marriage. Far more than a social contract, marriage is a sacrament and an expression of the profound unity that exists between a man and a woman in love. Through marriage, each couple can transcend their own humanity and unite not only “with each other” but also “in Christ.” Our Lord, Himself, stated:

"Have you not read that he who made them from the beginning made them male and female, and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let not man put asunder." (Matthew 19:4-6)

In the Orthodox wedding ceremony, we offer the prayer that God “establish them in that sacred oneness that rests in You. For in the beginning You made them man and woman, and it is by You that woman is joined to man, to support one another and to perpetuate humankind.”

In another place the marriage prayers of the Church proclaim, “In Your infinite grace and great goodness You came to Cana-in-Galilee and blessed the marriage there, to show that lawful marriage and the bearing of children is Your will.”

All people are to be treated with respect and love, since we have all been created in the image and likeness of God. However, marriage is a solemn commitment between a man and woman who are given the privilege of creating a new family and sharing in the creative love and power of God, both physical and spiritual.

For these reasons, all Orthodox Christians should support the fundamental principle expressed in Proposition 8.

Faithfully,

PARISH NOTES

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

Father Dino's Home ☎ 684-8731

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

WEEKEND IN GREECE FESTIVAL – Many thanks to our “Weekend in Greece” festival chairman Ted Pantazis and to all the hard-working parishioners who served as committee leaders, set up, cleaned up, cooked, served, danced, donated, advertised, and supported our festival. Preliminary reports show a 13% increase in revenues over last year. We also extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family of Mr. Alex Paraskevas, who collapsed during Saturday night of the festival. May his memory be eternal.

SUMMER OFFERINGS – Our thanks to all who donated to help us meet our expenses through the lean summer months. Saint Katherine parishioners offered over \$28,000, which carried us through a difficult period. We also thank these additional families for their summer offerings: Abraham and Sonata Abbott, Jim and Vee Karnezis, Tyke and Dena Kuchulis, and Bertha Pantels. May God bless you all!

FROM OUR NEW GREEK SCHOOL TEACHER...

THE POWER OF BEING UNITED

Whenever a vision is able to surpass all obstacles and become reality, it is a true success. The three Greek Orthodox parishes of the greater Sacramento area have performed a small “miracle.” They have joined forces for the spreading of Greek culture, while overlooking every difficulty and transforming weaknesses into much promising specialties.

With the help and support of the Greek Ministry of Education and the Consulate General’s Education Office in San Francisco, a new unified Greek language program has been running for one month now at all three parishes: at St. Anna’s in Roseville under the direction of Ms. Bessie Kondos, in Elk Grove under the direction of Mr. Demos Papadopoulos, and in Sacramento under the direction and overall coordination of the Program by Mrs. Becky Yerocostas.

This “miracle” has been supported by the parishioners, and at this moment at least sixty (!) students, minors as well as adults, are participating in Greek language lessons with warmth, enthusiasm and the desire to connect with contemporary Greece. The levels which I have been asked to teach are varied. The need from student to student is diverse and for me, as an educator, it is an unprecedented and very attractive challenge. On one hand, my goal is to transfer my knowledge and my experience, and on the other hand, to help as much as my role allows in the spreading of the Greek culture.

I would like from this post to thank all of you – parishioners, Directors, Priests, and of course the Greek Ministry of Education for this unique opportunity that has been offered to me and to promise that I will do my best to show that I am worthy of the responsibility that I have undertaken. Because when one believes in miracles, then it is very likely to experience them.

-- Ioanna Lekkakou

STEWARDSHIP – Look for your 2009 Stewardship pledge card in the mail during November. The average pledge this year was \$1,265 per family, which helped Saint Katherine do God’s work in 2008. Thank you for your support of Saint Katherine through Stewardship giving.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Our Fall General Assembly will be held on Sunday, November 9th following Divine Liturgy. Please join us to learn more about the accomplishments of our parish during 2008, the current financial status of our church, the 2009 budget approval, and our plans for the coming year.

SAINT KATHERINE NAMEDAY CELEBRATION – The Saint Katherine 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, November 8th in our community hall. Please join us for a special celebration featuring special guest speaker Fr. John Bakas from the St. Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles.

THE FEAST OF SAINT KATHERINE – Great Vespers in celebration of the Feast of Saint Katherine will take place at 7 PM on Monday, November 24th, followed by a reception in the Tsakopoulos Hall. Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Tuesday, November 25th at 10 AM. Area clergy have been invited to attend these special celebrations, so please join us!

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD – Look in the mail soon for the form to complete and return 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.

Religious Education

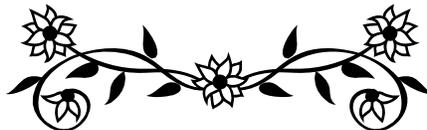
Our Sunday School program is off to a great start—it is not too late to join us! Please bring your children to Sunday School promptly at 10 AM.

Starting in November, the children of St Katherine will be gathering supplies to donate to the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House, a nonprofit organization that provides families of seriously ill and injured children a place to stay while their child receives treatment. Many of these families are of limited means and travel long distances to receive treatment for their child. A “Wish List” of needed items can be found on the flyers placed near the office area. If you would like to join the Sunday School in lending a helping hand to these families, please place your donation in the box located in the Sunday School Room.

Be sure to join us for our annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 21st following Divine Liturgy. The children always do a fantastic job and remind us of the joy of Christmas.

GOYA NEWS

Congratulations to our newly elected officers: President - Anthony Stathos, Vice President - Manolis Leones, Secretary - Michael Constantinou, and Treasurer - Dimitri Pappademos. The next few months will be busy for GOYA as we help with a food drive for the Elk Grove Food Closet, and are planning a trip to the RPM track. Join us and help plan our fun events for the Winter months. GOYA meetings take place the second Sunday of each month after Church in the Tsakopoulos Hall, unless posted otherwise. Contact Mike Makrakis for more information.



ACOLYTES' SCHEDULE – The team schedule for the next several months is:

Archangel Gabriel

Constantine Johal
Lucas Makrakis
Nicholas Scordakis
Anthony Stathos
Christopher Gergiannakis
John Potiris
Michael Constantinou
Nov. 2, 16 & 30; Dec. 7 & 21

Archangel Michael

Dimitri Pappademos
Ryan Stralen
Jack Stralen
Manoli Leones
Alexander Leones
Anthony Balalis
Sergio Chipain
Nov. 9 & 23; Dec. 14 & 28

Philoptochos News

Dear Philoptochos Members:

It is difficult to write these letters because when the Newsletter is written, many of the activities haven't occurred yet. So the events that are on our agenda such as the First Annual Oktoberfest haven't occurred yet. I always anticipate a fun and successful fundraiser. Much of what we do depends on the congregation at church. We hope our excitement is contagious and that as many people as possible we participate in our causes as possible. We need everyone's support in every way!

The members of the board and Father Dino would like to personally thank all of the Philoptochos members who prepared and served all of the yummy delicacies at the Annual Weekend in Greece. It is a pleasure working with each and every one of our hard working members. There is so much to learn from each of these women. God Bless You All! Our gratitude is so difficult to express to everyone individually. Thank you just doesn't seem like enough!

Christmas time is approaching quickly. Our Philoptochos has completed another wonderful year of Philanthropy. So much has been completed this year. Gifts were given to the Wind Youth Center, Elk Grove Food Bank Monthly. We have helped with the Benevolence Fund, and with the much needed supplies for the kitchen. We have set up a fund that will give allowances to members to help defray the cost of juice, coffee, and cookies for the children. On this same subject We have wonderful news! Several of the women of the parish have volunteered to make koulourakia for the coffee hours after church. This takes a huge responsibility off our members who had to sponsor and serve a 2-3 times a month!! Thank you ladies for stepping up to the plate to help. This will give our members more time to concentrate on fund raisers and other activities. It also frees us to join in the Divine Liturgy and enjoy a cup of coffee with friends and family! This goes along with another of my mom's favorite sayings, "Ask and you shall receive." Bless you for your kind help ladies.

The Philoptochos will now be renting out its dishes and place settings to parishioners who rent our Tsakopoulos Hall. The cost will be a little cheaper than renting it from an outside source. But, the only catch is, the services of our rental coordinator, Kathy Loper, must be secured by the family during the event. We treasure and protect all of the items that were purchased for the kitchen. Kathy goes out of her way to take care of all of this for us. Thank you Kathy! Please speak to any of the Board Members if you are interested in renting.

Thank you to each and every one of our wonderful Philoptochos members for all of your dedication and your wonderful work ethics! I am humbled by the talent and intelligence of our members. God Bless all of you. Happy Holidays! Save some money for our Holiday Bazaar in December!!

Respectfully and Sincerely,
Dina Scordakis
President of the St. Katherine Philoptochos



PROSPHORON SCHEDULE

Athanasia Manikas: Dec. 7, Jan. 18

Eleni Camperos: Dec. 14, Jan. 25

Christine Economy: Nov. 2, Dec. 21

Sevasti Hatzopoulos: Nov. 9, Dec. 28

Mary Savage: Nov. 16, Jan. 4

Eleni Vathis: Nov. 23, Jan. 11

“Do unto others....”

Lydia Pleotis Howell, MD

The Golden Rule of “doing unto others as you would have done unto you” has long been recognized as a basic principle of our Christian faith. But did you know that God appears to have actually created mankind with the built-in ability to be charitable and generous, so that we could fulfill his desire that we serve others?

Medical researchers at Duke University made this discovery while studying participants playing a computer game. In some of the games, the participants played for charity, and in others, they played for personal gain. The researchers found that when the participants played for charity, a particular region of the brain lit up as a “hot spot” on a special x-ray called a functional MRI.

The area that lit up on the MRI is the part of the brain responsible for perceiving the intentions and actions of others. According to the researchers, this means that a person’s ability to see events or actions of others as meaningful and consistent with one’s own values is critical for generosity and charitable behavior.

God appears to have created this special part of the brain so that we have the ability to think of more than just ourselves, and to ensure that we are able to experience the virtue of charity and “do unto others” through philanthropy. Using this part of the brain may explain the tremendous generosity shown by our parishioners to our church. Our parishioners give generously of their time, talents, and treasure because they recognize that St. Katherine provides a meaningful and fulfilling environment that sustains the Orthodox faith and values that we all hold dear.

We hope that the work of St. Katherine Church creates a warm glow in your heart as well as your brain. During the holiday season and throughout the coming year, we hope that you will continue to fulfill God’s desire that we do unto others and support our parish through your contributions to stewardship, our mortgage reduction program, and through your outstanding efforts at the crab feed, festival and other special events. Your fellow parishioners appreciate your altruism and generosity, and we look forward to your continued support as our church grows and thrives.



MEMORIAL FLAME -- *If you would like to have the Memorial Vigil 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.*

UOn Sunday, August 31, Rosemary Johnson offered Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her mother, Mary Cihos, 9 years since her passing.

UOn Tuesday, September 23, the Memorial Flame burned in memory of Bill Ballas, 9 years since his passing, offered by his wife Mary Ballas, daughter Alexia, & Lefteris Kavros.

UOn Tuesday, October 7, Dean Scourtes offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of his father, two years since his passing.

UOn Sunday, November 16, Georgia Jenkins-Wenger offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her daughter, Jennifer, on what would have been her 25th birthday.

On the Night of Nativity

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Pure is the present night, in which the Pure One appeared, Who came to purify us! Let our hearing be pure, and the sight of our eyes chaste, and the feeling of the heart holy, and the speech of the mouth sincere!

The present night is the night of reconciliation; therefore, let no one be angry against his brother and offend him!

This night gave peace to the whole world, and so, let no one threaten. This is the night of the Most Meek One; let no one be cruel!

This is the night of the Humble One; let no one be proud!

Now is the day of joy; let us not take revenge for offences! Now is the day of good will; let us not be harsh. On this day of tranquility, let us not become agitated by anger!

Today God came unto sinners; let not the righteous exalt himself over sinners!

Today the Most Rich One became poor for our sake; let the rich man invite the poor to his table!

Today we received a gift which we did not ask for; let us bestow alms to those who cry out to us and beg!

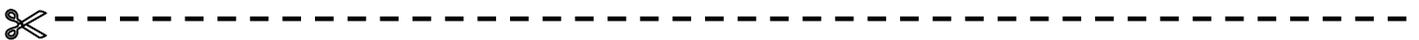
The present day has opened the door of heaven to our prayers; let us also open our door to those who ask of us forgiveness!

Today the Godhead placed upon Himself the seal of humanity, and humanity has been adorned with the seal of the Godhead!

(Source: www.orthodox.net)

A SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT

Wondering what to give the person who has everything this Christmas? Consider a gift to St. Katherine this holiday season in honor of your parents, siblings or other special person. The recipient will be notified with a beautiful certificate with your name, and a special candle will be lit at the altar in their honor on December 25th. The gift of prayer and spirituality is the most beautiful gift you can extend. Please return the form below by December 15th.



Saint Katherine Christmas Gift for a Special Person

Your name: _____ Phone number: _____

This gift is in honor of _____

This gift is in memory of _____

My donation of \$_____ is enclosed.

Please send an acknowledgement card of my gift to the following address:

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Please complete and return the form to 9165 Peets Street, Elk Grove, CA 95758 by December 15th

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED
TO ATTEND A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY

Remembering when...

CELEBRATING THE

20th Anniversary

OF

SAINT KATHERINE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA
1988-2008

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2008

TSAKOPOULOS HALL
9165 PEETS STREET
ELK GROVE, CALIFORNIA

OUR EVENING BEGINS AT 6:00 P.M., COCKTAILS
DINNER AND PROGRAM 7:00 P.M.
FOLLOWED BY DANCING

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
V. REV. FATHER JOHN S. BAKAS, DEAN
SAINT SOPHIA CATHEDRAL
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COCKTAIL ATTIRE



M _____
Please reserve _____ tickets at \$75 each.

Tables of 10 are also available. Please list your guests
on the next panel.

Sorry, we are unable to attend but would like to make a
donation.

\$2,500 – Sponsor (2 tickets)
\$5,000 – Benefactor (4 tickets)
\$10,000 – Grand Benefactor (Table of 10)
Other \$ _____

*The favor of a reply is requested before October 25.
For additional information, please call 916.736.2949*

Names of guests to be seated together at my table:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 8, Saturday – Saint Katherine 20th Anniversary Dinner Dance, Tsakopoulos Hall, 6 PM.
November 9, Sunday – General Assembly in the Tsakopoulos Hall after Divine Liturgy
November 11, Tuesday – Bible Study in the office area, 10 AM. Also, Parish Council Meeting, 7 PM.
November 18, Tuesday – Bible Study in the office area, 10 AM.
November 24, Monday – **Great Vespers for the Feast of Saint Katherine, 7 PM.**
November 25, Tuesday – **The Feast of Saint Katherine, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.**
December 2, Tuesday – Bible Study in the office area, 10 AM.
December 6, Saturday – The Feast of Saint Nicholas, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
December 9, Tuesday – Bible Study in the office area, 10 AM. Also, Parish Council Meeting, 7 PM.
December 12, Friday – The Feast of Saint Spyridon, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
December 16, Tuesday – Bible Study in the office area, 10 AM.
December 21, Sunday – Sunday School Christmas Program in the Tsakopoulos Hall after the Divine Liturgy
December 25, Tuesday – **Christmas Day, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.**
December 30, Tuesday – Bible Study in the office area, 10 AM.
January 1, Thursday – New Year's Day and the Feast of Saint Basil the Great, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
January 6, Tuesday – The Feast of Epiphany, Divine Liturgy and the Great Blessing of the Waters, 10 AM.
January 7, Wednesday – The Feast of Saint John the Baptist, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
January 24, Saturday – Annual Crab Feed—Save the date!



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

Time Dated Material

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Elk Grove, CA
Permit No.11