



SAINT KATHERINE CHRONICLE / NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2009

A Word from your Pastor

During a recent sermon on the parable of the Rich man and Lazarus, I cited a wonderful Op-Ed piece that appeared on the editorial page of the Sacramento Bee recently. It is a beautifully written piece penned by a retired political speech writer who lives in the Sacramento area, and it addresses some fundamental elements of the Christian faith raised by Jesus' parable.

Take a few moments to read it. It will be well worth your time.

Faithfully,

Father Dino

VIEWPOINTS: GREATEST JOURNEY IS THE ONE TAKEN WITHIN

BY MARGARET A. BENGS

Published: Saturday, Oct. 31, 2009

Falling leaves are like losing old perspectives about life to prepare for fresh new insights that advance internal growth.

My venture in growing up inside began as a volunteer at Sutter Memorial Hospital more than 20 years ago. I had reached a dark place in my life and was told to do something for someone else, expecting nothing in return. A nurse led me into a room where a blind baby boy, about 3 months old, lay in a crib. The right side of his face was caved in. His eyes rolled up in his head. I think he was a drug baby.

The nurse said, "Could you rock this baby? His parents never come to see him. No one comes. He just lies in the crib all day."

I began to rock the baby. He was lethargic and unresponsive. Then I began to sing to him, a bright, lilting song I remembered from childhood. When I hit the high note, suddenly he smiled. I sang the song over and over again. His eyes were still rolling up in his head, but

every time I reached that high note, he smiled. Then he curled his tiny fingers up, circled them around my thumb and held on to me.

Suddenly, in his deformity I saw my own. How blind I had been, how stunted inside. My life had been all about me – jobs, trips, clothes, houses, cars, prestige. If I could just get everything I thought I wanted I would be happy, I had thought.

But no matter how many of those things I got, it was never enough. I would seek more and more, and get more and more, but there was always something missing. This was the beginning of many years of spending my time with abused and neglected children, and making many other changes in my life. The grandiose notions of my youth have been replaced by a realization that happiness is found in the places least expected.

My old dreams of distant destinations and worldly triumphs have been transformed into fulfillment where I am, here and now. My old ideas about happiness have been replaced by increasingly humble but more enduring and soul-sustaining ones.

The cracked pavement, potholes and lack of a sidewalk on our rustic Carmichael street that I once deemed badly in need of modern upgrades I now view as a precious and increasingly rare experience of country life, with the neighborhood quiet, the cars slow and the birds singing.

Our small adobe home that I once viewed as temporary, until we could afford an ivy-latticed Tudor, I now love for the memories my husband and I have shared in our "country cottage"; for the old Sequoias, Italian stone pines, rose gardens, mockingbirds and wild turkeys; and for the low mortgage payment in a house nearly paid off.

The "emotionally disturbed" children I once ignored have become an important part of my life and have touched my heart in ways I never would have imagined.

I once thought I must have what I want, in order to be happy, but found that getting what I didn't want often taught me the most important lessons of life.

I once thought contentment came from the outside but learned it comes from within.

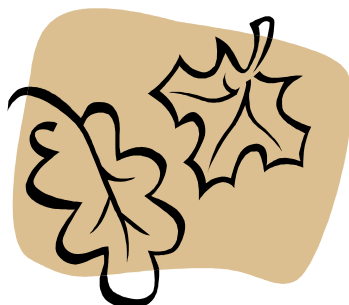
I once thought life was about getting but learned it is about giving.

My parents' deaths that I once mourned, I now view as an opportunity to celebrate their legacies, to pass on the invaluable life lessons they taught us.

My husband's illness that I once viewed as an insidious intrusion on our life I now realize is a challenge to rise above my self-centeredness and experience empathy for others who are ill.

The thorns in my life that I once thought would make happiness impossible I now see as lessons that inner joy comes from my perspective, from how I respond to the life around me each day.

The leaves are blazing red and gold on our street. They will soon die and fall away. More false perspectives are blowing away. Next year, new leaves will glisten as more of life's lessons will be revealed.



PARISH NOTES

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

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

STEWARDSHIP – Despite the difficult economic times we are all facing, our parishioners are faithful in their support of Saint Katherine. To date, we have 229 pledged families offering a total of \$175,521 in Stewardship commitments with an average of \$766 from each family. We will begin mailing Stewardship commitment materials for 2010 by the middle of November. Our sincere appreciation to all who have made a commitment to our Stewardship program to support our beautiful parish.

WEEKEND IN GREECE—Many thanks to our “Weekend in Greece” festival chairpersons Enrico and Jamie Carrieri, 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. Our preliminary reports show that the slow economy had an impact on our gross revenues for our festival this year. Our total revenue reached \$71,000, down about 10% from last year’s \$78,500. However, we received countless compliments on the quality of our food and on the wonderfully festive and authentic atmosphere at this year’s Weekend In Greece!

SUMMER OFFERINGS –Our thanks to all who donated to help us meet our expenses through the lean summer months. Saint Katherine parishioners offered over \$23,800, which carried us through a difficult period. We also thank Savvas and Stamatiki Coss for their offering which arrived after we went to press with our previous newsletter issue. May Good bless you all!

OKTOBERFEST LUNCHEON— A big thank-you to our Philoptochos members who helped put on a festive and delicious “Greek Oktoberfest” luncheon on October 25, 2009. This is the second year that Philoptochos has hosted this annual Fall luncheon, with all proceeds to benefit Saint Katherine Church. This year, the total donation to our Church from Philoptochos was \$960. Thank you, Philoptochos members!

SAINT KATHERINE NAMEDAY CELEBRATION—The Saint Katherine 21st Anniversary Dinner Dance will be held on Saturday, November 14th in our Tsakopoulos Hall. Please join us for a festive evening of dinner and dancing, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets are available by calling the church office at 683-3443.

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

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARD – The annual Christmas Card Letter has been mailed to all 300 families on our mailing list. It includes a form that you can return to the church office to ensure that your family’s name is included in our beautiful annual Christmas Card. There is no set fee to have your name included. Rather we leave it up to each family to determine what their Christmas gift will be to Saint Katherine. Be sure to include your family’s name in our parish Christmas Card this year. It is a wonderful way to send holiday greetings to your fellow Saint Katherine parishioners.

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

Archangel Gabriel

Anthony Stathos
Lucas Makrakis
Nicholas Scordakis
Josh Hames
Christopher Gergiannakis
John Potiris
Michael Constantinou
Dimitri Dogias

Nov. 8 & 22 – Dec. 6 & 20

Archangel Michael

Dimitri Pappademos
Ryan Stralen
Jack Stralen
Manoli Leones
Alexander Leones
Anthony Balalis
Sergio Chipain

Nov. 1 & 15 — Dec. 13 & 27



PROSPHORON SCHEDULE

Athanasia Manikas: Nov. 8, Dec. 20
Eleni Camperos: Nov. 15, Dec. 27
Christine Economy: Nov. 22, Jan. 3

Sevasti Hatzopoulos: Nov. 29, Jan. 10
Anna Papajohn: Dec. 6, Jan. 17
Eleni Vathis: Nov. 1, Dec. 13



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.

- † On Sunday, August 30th, Rosemary Johnston offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of Mary Cihos, 10 years since her passing.
- † On Saturday, October 3rd, Georgia Jenkins-Wenger offered the Memorial Flame in memory of her beloved daughter, Jennifer Elizabeth Jenkins, 9 years since her passing.
- † On Thursday, October 15th, Alison Elle Alemán offered the Holy Altar Vigil Flame in memory of her beloved mother, Elene George Lentzakis Loveless, 17 years since her passing.
- † On that same day, the Holy Altar Vigil Flame burned in memory of Anna Lentzakis, 40 years since her passing, and was offered by her granddaughter Alison Elle Alemán.
- † On Friday, November 6th, the Memorial Flame burned in memory of Ted Karnezis, 6 months since his passing, and was offered by his parents, Jim and Vee Karnezis.

Philoptochos News

Philoptochos Societies are an important part of Greek Orthodox Parishes everywhere. The word Philoptochos means “friend of the poor”. On May 31, 2009, the new Saint Katherine Philoptochos Board officers were elected: President, Alison Elle Alemán, Vice-President, Jamie Carrieri, Treasurer, Kia Balalis, Recording Secretary, Diane Petersen, and Corresponding Secretary, Sophia Stathos.

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 Alison Alemán, President, or one of the Circle leaders listed below for information about becoming a member.

- Abigail Circle – Athina Holland / Jamie Carrieri
- Anna /Sarah Circle–Alison Alemán/ Kia Balalis
- Mary Magdeline Circle – Presvytera Chrisoula
- Rachel Circle – Mary Kondos/ Eleni Camperos
- Rebecca Circle – Diane Petersen /Christine Economy
- Susanna Circle – Elaine Pavlatos

The Philoptochos Board and Father Dino would like to personally thank all of the Philoptochos members and Parish ladies who worked so hard to prepare and serve all of the delicious Greek delicacies at our annual Weekend in Greece. It is a pleasure working with everyone and sharing fellowship with everyone! While “thank you” does not seem like enough to show our gratitude, we mean it with all our hearts!

Another great event was enjoyed by the entire community at our recent Oktoberfest held after the Divine Liturgy on October 25th. Great Oktoberfest food, drink and decorations were enjoyed by all and we were able to raise \$960 to donate toward paying the church property taxes.

CHRISTMAS is quickly approaching. The Philoptochos will be holding its annual Holiday Boutique, with gift baskets, craft items and holiday gifts for sale. Do your Christmas shopping after church during coffee hour! The Holiday Boutique will be held in the Tsakopoulos Hall following Divine Liturgy on November 29th, and on Decemer 6th, 13th and 20th.

The following delicious, freshly made pastries will be available for purchase at the Holiday Boutique: BAKLAVA, KATAIFI, MELOMAKAROUNA, and PAXIMADIA WITH CRANBERRIES! Gift boxes of selected varieties of pastries will also be for sale at the Boutique. The Abigail Circle will also be taking orders for their delicious VASILOPETA BREAD for your home on New Year’s Day. TO ORDER, SEE ATHINA HOLLAND after Divine Liturgy on Sundays until Christmas.

Religious Education

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

Our Sunday School Program welcomes its new Director, Maria Koumis and all the returning and new teachers for the next school year. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, please contact Father Dino or Maria Koumis for more information

The Sunday School children will focus on giving to those in need this holiday season by collecting coloring books, crayons and unwrapped toys for the Shriner's Hospital children. There is a box in the Sunday School Room for your child to place his or her donation on Sunday.

Be sure to join us for our annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 20th, following the Divine Liturgy. The children always do a fantastic job and remind us of the simple joys of Christmas.

Upcoming Sunday School Schedule of Events

November 8 – Grandparents' Sunday

November 15- Christmas charitable giving project begins


November 22 - Emphasis: Feast of Saint Katherine

December 13 - All items due for charity project

December 20 - Christmas program

December 27 - No Sunday School

January 3 - Emphasis: The Feast of Epiphany



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YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED!

**SAINT KATHERINE
NAMEDAY**

DINNER / DANCE

Saturday, November 14, 2009

Tsakopoulos Hall

Cocktails 6 PM, Dinner 7 PM



Join us for an evening of fine food, fellowship, dancing and music to celebrate our parish feastday!

Tickets will be available following
church services on Sundays

Only 200 tickets available, save the date and be sure to get yours early.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Nov. 9, Monday – The Feast of Saint Nektarios, Divine Liturgy, 10 AM.
Nov. 10, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM; Parish Council Meeting, 7 PM
Nov. 14, Saturday — Saint Katherine Name Day Dinner & Dance, 6 PM, Tsakopoulos Hall
Nov. 15, Sunday — Philoptochos Board meeting, following Divine Liturgy
Nov. 17, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM
Nov. 24, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM; Saint Katherine Great Vespers, 7 PM, reception following
Nov. 25, Wednesday — Divine Liturgy, Feast of Saint Katherine, 10 AM
Nov. 29, Sunday — Philoptochos Holiday Boutique/Bake Sale, following Divine Liturgy
Dec. 1, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM; Senior League Luncheon, Annunciation Church
Dec. 6, Sunday — Philoptochos Holiday Boutique/Bake Sale, following Divine Liturgy
Dec. 8, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM; Parish Council Meeting, 7 PM
Dec. 12, Saturday — Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Spyridon, 10 AM
Dec. 13, Sunday — Philoptochos Holiday Boutique/Bake Sale, following Divine Liturgy
Dec. 15, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM
Dec. 20, Sunday — Sunday School Christmas Program and Philoptochos Holiday Boutique/Bake Sale,
following Divine Liturgy
Dec. 22, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM
Dec. 25, Friday — Divine Liturgy, Feast of the Incarnation of Christ, 10 AM
Dec. 29, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM
Jan. 1, Friday — Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. Basil the Great, 10 AM
Jan. 3, Sunday – Annual Philoptochos Vasilopeta Luncheon following the Divine Liturgy.
Jan. 5, Tuesday — Bible Study, 10 AM; Senior League Luncheon, Annunciation Church
Jan. 6, Wednesday — Divine Liturgy, Feast of Theophany 10 AM
Jan. 7, Thursday — Divine Liturgy, Feast of St. John the Baptist, 10 AM
Jan. 23, Saturday – Saint Katherine Annual Crab Feed!

St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
9165 Peets Street
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Time Dated Material

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