

# CROSS CURRENTS – SPRING 2018

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## AND THE MEANING OF THE WORD

by Father Peter Salmas, Pastor

*Faith* is trust that God is real, He hears our prayers and blesses our endeavors to our benefit and to His glory. Yet trust in God is something that many of us find difficult. We hear or read about the many miracles described in the Old and New Testament, and yet, wonder if what we read in the Bible is possible and whether it happened at all.

We would rather believe in magicians and wizards than give credence that God is real. We eagerly believe in our scientist and even atheist astrophysicists because scientific theory is more ‘probable’ than theology. Even growing up, I am sure many of us remember someone reading to us fairy tales or great epic stories of Greek mythology and the British tale of King Arthur, the Knights of the Round Table and Merlin the Magician.

However, as much as these wonderous tales of myth and magic may have played a role in our childhood and growing up years, as adults we are still enthralled by them, especially as they are brought to life on the giant screen in our homes and in the theatre. Technology has made them so realistic that we even wonder, a little, whether it is fact or fiction.

In recent years, holy and ascetic men and women of faith have been canonized and given days of commemoration. Saints Paisios of Mount Athos, Porphyrios of Kafsokalivia, Meletios of Lardos, Iakovos of Evia, Saint Philoumenos of Jacob’s Well, Saint John of San Francisco and Saint Sophia the Ascetic of Kleisoura and many others. These great witnesses, these holy “martyrs,” are contemporary saints of our Holy Orthodox tradition. They are evidence of God’s Grace in our sinful and distorted world. The stories about them are not epic tales or mythology, but eye witness accounts of their holiness of life and the many miracles attributed to them.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we remember and celebrate His continued love for us through these holy men and women of our time. The faith and trust that these newly canonized saints exhibit to us inspires us with God’s Presence in today’s world. How can we not be moved to also be faithful witnesses, “martyrs” of our Lord’s miraculous presence to those around us?

We have been truly blessed to witness such persons of faith and grace in today’s world. Let us give thanks to our Lord, who blesses and sanctifies all things to His Glory. Amen.

## YOU’RE GONNA MISS THIS

by Father Tom Felactu, Assistant Priest

Speaking with one of our esteemed ORA members on the phone, we got to talking about *Cross Currents*. I asked her what she might like to see as a topic for *CC*, and the topic she suggested or rather what message wished to convey to our church family really struck me. She started asking me where do the years go? “You don’t realize when you’re in the moment that you take for granted the ability to get to church!” On the call she conveyed her sadness at not being able to come on Sundays either because she physically is not up for it, or sometimes simply because she does not

have a ride. It immediately brought to mind a country song I have really grown to appreciate, especially in light of its new found meaning after my convo with her. And since I cannot sing it for you, I will let you read the lyrics, and they go a little something like this...

She was staring out the window of that SUV /  
Complaining, saying "I can't wait to turn eighteen"  
/ She said "I'll make my own money, and I'll make  
my own rules" / Momma put the car in park out  
there in front of the school / She kissed her head  
and said "I was just like you"

You're gonna miss this / You're gonna want this  
back / You're gonna wish these days hadn't gone  
by so fast / These are some good times / So  
take a good look around / You may not know it  
now / But you're gonna miss this

Before she knows it she's a brand new bride / In  
her one-bedroom apartment, and her daddy stops  
by / He tells her "It's a nice place" / She says  
"It'll do for now" / Starts talking about babies and  
buying a house / Daddy shakes his head and  
says "Baby, just slow down"

You're gonna miss this / You're gonna want this  
back / You're gonna wish these days hadn't gone  
by so fast / These are some good times / So

take a good look around / You may not know it  
now / But you're gonna miss this

Five years later there's a plumber workin' on the  
water heater / Dog's barkin', phone's ringin' /  
One kid's cryin', one kid's screamin' / She keeps  
apologizin' / He says "They don't bother me / I've  
got two babies of my own / One's thirty six, one's  
twenty three / Huh, it's hard to believe, but ...

You're gonna miss this / You're gonna want this  
back / You're gonna wish these days hadn't gone  
by so fast / These are some good times / So  
take a good look around / You may not know it  
now / But you're gonna miss this!!!

(written by Ashley Gorley, Lee Miller; as  
performed by Trace Adkins; Lyrics ©  
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More often than not, we don't realize what we have until we lose it. Whether it be relationships, the use of an arm (which I recently realized I totally take for granted), our sight, our hearing, our ability to do the most basic things for ourselves INCLUDING our ability to get to church. To worship with our church family, see our friends, and give thanks for the little things we have been blessed with... Life is hectic, crazy even, but by God's grace and mercy we get through. We (absolutely myself included) need to realize what is truly important in life, the precious moments that are flying by right in front of our faces. Last week I read a book to the kiddos, and I took my time. We talked about the pictures which reminded Ody of a story about school, to which Sophia also had a surprisingly 😊 similar story. After they were asleep and I looked at them, I saw how big they have become, and I grieved all the times I rushed through story time so I could finish some mundane and ridiculously unimportant task. It wasn't every time, but it was way too many times.

We must immediately reprioritize our lives so that Christ, and His church come first! First before everything else. To learn to become a bit more content with what we have, and appreciative of the little blessings that we daily take for granted no matter how many times we are reminded not to. I can't imagine life when I can't get to church, to receive the Holy Eucharist *oli mazi* (all together). To be united with Christ and with His Body. To come together to pray and give thanks. To you our anonymous ORA member, THANK YOU for sharing your message with us, and for reminding us not to take for granted our ability to get to church!

## ROLE OF CHRIST IN SALVATION

by Konstantine Salmas, Lay Assistant

The impression we have of what life is going to be about. the woman at the well. Her position in her life always strikes me. What she has continually done is repeated the same set of decisions. The repetition of marriage strikes me. We don't know the details of her marriages. We do know that she has given up on marriage. This is what I read: "I have done the official marriage thing many many times. It hasn't worked for me, which means the problem must be the act of marriage." She is repeating the marriage situation but without the situation being given approval by the institution. Her pattern of behavior shows her movement away from faith.

It's an example of a loss of faith. A person does things according to an institutional norm and this shows some level of belief in that. But when this doesn't work out for her, she decides to leave out the institution, but to continue the personal action. Her story is a story of exasperation. She stopped repeating the ceremony. But she didn't stop repeating the relationship.

What I can speak to her in her case is her salvation in Christ. Freedom is what is communicated. The passage concludes with the woman saying to the town: "This man told me everything I ever did." He pointed out to her, her life story. Christ pointed out to her what the core of her life had been: a too narrow search. Her focus had been determined by something incomplete.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Anastacia Stamates, Parish Council President

As the school year ends I always take time to reflect on what went well this year and what changes I will make for the next school year. And since I have essentially been on a school schedule for 40 plus years, I end up reflecting on many aspects of my life at this time of year, so even though I am only half way through my year as president of Parish Council, this is my time to reflect.

It's been a wonderful year. As we do every year, our **community** has served, worshipped, prayed, and celebrated together. *Koinonia*.

In the school district I work in, some of our schools are designated as community schools, these are schools that receive additional funding through grants to work with and find community resources that support the students and families. We have found that students learn better when supported by the **community**.

One of my favorite movies is "It's A Wonderful Life" not just because it is a great story of redemption and faith but because throughout his life, and so clearly demonstrated at the end of the movie, it is the **community** that saves George Bailey.

Cultural psychologist, Geert Hofstede, created a cultural index that measures different world cultures on seven dimensions, one of which is individualism versus collectivism. The lower the number on a scale of 100 to 1, the more collectivist the culture. Greece (I know we aren't all Greek, but I think there is a strong connection between our religion and our culture) compared to the United States has a much lower number (38 vs. 91). A collectivist culture values group success, relationships and reliance on the collective. To me this means that we function better as a **community**.

To me, raised as an Orthodox Christian, a Christian **community** has always been present in my life and I find it difficult to imagine anything different.

So, it was especially shocking this past May, when I learned that the latest perpetrator of a school shooting was a Greek-American student at the high school. I had so many questions. The

usual questions I think of after something like this has happened: Why didn't anyone know? What happened to him that he thought this was the answer to his problems? Would I know if one of my students was planning something like this? But this time there were additional questions: Was he a church-goer? Did anyone in his church community know? Why did he feel so isolated from his church, his community, that he thought this was the answer to his problems? It wasn't easy to find information and the little that could be found didn't contain the answers.

So, the questions must turn to self-reflection: As a church community, are we making sure that none of our youth feel isolated? Does every one of our children have at least one person they could turn to if they are feeling alone? Angry? Harming themselves or others? Are we reaching out to all our parishioners to make sure no one is feeling alone?

Holy Cross is a strong **community**. When I am at liturgy, in a meeting, working on Festival or other events, I can see our community at work and it is amazing. I believe that being part of a community is unique—outside of church, I have only experienced it being created artificially at my school or seen it in the movies. This doesn't mean however that there isn't more work to do. We must continually work together to ensure that our community stays strong, that we support the church's mission with our time, talent and treasure, and that we continue to live a life in service reaching out not only to our parishioners but to the greater community and show through our words and actions that we are followers of Christ. *Koinonia*.

## FROM THE JANITOR'S CLOSET

by Tyke Stamates, Facilities Manager

The Closet has been very busy lately, but I've been thinking about a phrase and 2 words.

The words I have in mind are "PRETTY" and "IT"; the phrase is "HAVE A NICE ONE."

The word "IT" means (from the dictionary) a pronoun third person singular, neutral pronoun corresponding to HE and SHE. What does that mean? I haven't the slightest idea.

In today's language I BELIEVE ("IT") has a new meaning. "IT" means he or she HAS SOME THING special about them.

Back in the day, we had the "IT" Girls. They were young and pretty. But what was the "IT", that special thing? Whatever "IT" was; "IT" still exists.

Joe Montana has "IT", but Steve Young does not have "IT" and Steve was batter-rated quarterback. Stephen Curry has "IT", but Lebron does not, although he thinks he has "IT."

My grandson Constantine uses the "IT" word. He ran up to me in the Gym and very excitably said "Pappou, I did "IT". I praised him, not knowing what "IT" was. Turns out he kicked a basketball.

That was his "IT" moment. We all have had our "IT" moments. We did something that we were proud of. We of course remember our "IT" moments but as time goes by, they are soon forgotten.

The Lord JESUS has "IT". The greatest "IT" of all time came from THE LORD JESUS, AND "IT" HAS LASTED OVER 2000 YEARS.

- - Take Heed. "IT" is a timeless message. / NEVER WILL WE FORGET "IT". - -

Now for the "HAVE A NICE ONE". Everytime I hear that, I want to SCREAM, "HAVE A NICE ONE WHAT???"

If you want to say, "HAVE A NICE DAY," then say "DAY." Both words have 3 letters, so it would take the same effort to say "DAY."

And another one, “PRETTY” as in “that was a pretty bad accident, I hope everyone is okay.” Now I ask you, how can a bad accident be pretty? The word is “VERY,” not “PRETTY.”

I have said the following many times, so I would like to remind you. I am sure you do this at home:

**YOUR CHURCH IS YOUR HOME; SO DO IT HERE!**

**IF YOU OPEN IT, CLOSE IT.**

**IF YOU TURN IT ON, TURN IT OFF.**

**IF YOU UNLOCK IT, LOCK IT.**

**IF YOU MAKE A MESS, CLEAN IT UP.**

**IF YOU BREAK IT, TELL US.**

We have started cooking for our Festival. Last year, we had a heatwave so severe that people stayed home. Stockton and Santa Cruz suffered the same fate. I’ve been assured that this year, we will have a very pleasant weekend. So, let’s all get together and have a good time. There is work to be done, so volunteer and have a good time. This is a great time to meet new parishioners, make new friendships, and have a Great, Great Time.

## **ATTENTION ALL SENIORS – AGE 55+**

by Daisy Fernando, O.R.A. President

Have you reached that magical number 55+? If you have, why haven’t we seen you? Your friends are waiting for you to come, visit and join our lively Holy Cross Senior Group, ORA.

Do you enjoy delicious lunches, guest speakers, day trips but most of all the fellowship of old and new friends??? Then, ORA is the place to be!

Our meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month in The Oaks. Meet and greet at 11:00 AM; brief meeting at 11:30 AM; and hot lunch at Noon. The annual dues are \$20.00.

With the Holy Cross Festival just around the corner, our Seniors are always able and willing to help in the preparation and baking wherever and whenever called. We look forward to the fellowship and friendship – now is the time to join ORA.

On behalf of the ORA Board Vice President Virginia Coppock, Secretary Helen Valavanis and Treasurer Cathy Zamenes we invite both Holy Cross parishioners and members of our Sister parishes to come and share in the fellowship and fun afternoon.

## **PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

by the Philoptochos Board

Holy Cross Philoptochos 2018 Recap

Seventeen board members, over 100 general members – An amazing year!

### **Six major fundraisers raising tens of thousands:**

- Light the Path for seminarian support, helping to raise almost \$50,000 in Sacramento
- Kids’n’Cancer – sent a check for \$7,000
- Annual Christmas Tea to support The Family Sharing Program and Benevolence – \$3,000
- Vasilopita for Saint Basil Academy – over \$4,000
- Annual Fashion Show to fund Church and Community Service Awards for deserving high school seniors – over \$13,000 (*see photo below*)
- Christmas and Easter Baking – \$3,000



*Philoptochos Church and Community Service Award recipients  
with Father Tom, Philoptochos President Helene Nemchik, and Father Peter*

**Conferences:**

- Women’s Health and Wellness Event – almost 100 in attendance
- Fall Retreat at Saint Nicholas Ranch
- Clergy Laity Convention

**Collections:**

- The *Epitaphio* flowers
- Cosmas and Damianos to support our Patriarchate

**Supporting our Church, Parish, and Community:**

- Vesper’s Dinner for our Church’s Nameday
- Fellowship each Sunday at Coffee Hour
- Father’s Day Reception
- First Step and Maple Street Shelter to serve the hungry

In addition to these events, we have supported over 30 ministries in the Metropolis and at the Archdiocesan level, helped on confidential matters, hosted dinners, assisted with set up for parish events, and contributed toward burial costs.

As you can see, we have been busy this year. Please add your name to our list of general members. Your time, your treasure and your talent could all be used to strengthen this ministry which serves as the maternal side of our beloved Church.

**CHOIR SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENTS**

A big round of applause for the 12 Sunday School students who sing with the choir! We’re proud of you, and we’d love to welcome more young people into the choir! We recognized several students at the recent Religious Education Promotion Day.



*Young Sunday School students who sing in the choir with Father Tom, Choir Director Chris Canellos, and Father Peter*

Congratulations to Zoie Orth, who is the recipient of this year's Holy Cross Choir Scholarship Award, given to a student who is finishing their junior year of high school. Zoie sings in our soprano section while excelling in her demanding academic course load in school and participating in many school musicals and drama productions.

Congratulations also to tenor Christian Canellos who just graduated from high school and is the recipient of a Holy Cross Philoptochos Church and Community Service Award. Christian was recognized for several volunteer activities, including his charitable project which raised money to buy books for students at local low-income schools. He'll attend Stanford University in the fall.



*Zoie Orth receives Holy Cross Choir Scholarship Award*



*High School graduate Christian Canellos honored for years in choir*

Congratulations as well to all the students who sang with the choir this past year: Ereni Delis, Raisa Gagas, Anna Louridas, Maria Morrison, Vicki Samaras, Annie Virsik, Kate Virsik, Sophia

Wentley, Zoe Wentley, and as mentioned, Zoie Orth and Christian Canellos. They have been doing a great job, and we're very happy to have them!

A big welcome to our newest student choir member who just recently joined us: tenor Michael Kamenis, who is a rising sophomore at Serra High School. We are very happy to have you singing with us, Michael!

Welcome also to three adult choir members who have recently joined us: sopranos Janet Kolettis and Katerina Leftheris, and alto Nicole Vournazos. Janet comes to us by way of Northridge, Katerina is from Cardiff-by-the-Sea, and Nicole is originally from Connecticut. We are so very happy to have you with us, Janet, Katerina, and Nicole!

The choir sang recently during Divine Liturgy at Stanford Memorial Church. It was wonderful to participate in the service alongside students from the Orthodox Christian Fellowship at Stanford. Father Tom was the celebrant while Father Peter was in Argentina for a conference.

We're looking forward to our end of year BBQ and potluck, when we have a chance to socialize and enjoy each other's company. Before you know it, we'll be rehearsing our special presentation to sing at the Belmont Greek Festival. *Opa!*

## THE BYZANTINE MUSIC MINISTRY UPDATE

by Ross Ritterman

### Ascending with the Psalms

It wouldn't be a *Cross Currents* update without an educational tidbit about our beautiful services. In this issue we'll focus on the **Anavathmoi** (Οἱ Ἀναβαθμοί) or the **Hymns of Ascent** which are a section of the Orthros service which are chanted antiphonally, that is, by two choirs. The antiphonal manner of chanting entered our worship from St. Ignatius of Antioch (+107) who saw a vision of two choirs of angels. As such the Anavathmoi are sometimes referred to as "the antiphons". They generally follow the reading of a short text called "The Hypakoe" and will precede the Orthros Gospel. They are chanted in the mode of the week according to the 8 mode system on Sundays but on most non-Sunday feast days the anavathmoi of the 4th mode are used.

As you might expect (if you've been following our other articles), there is usually an Old Testament connection or precedent for the hymns of our services, and the Anavathmoi are no exception. As we've continually discussed, the Orthodox fathers were very conscious about continuity of the services with the worship of the Jewish temple and along those lines the Psalms, with their sometimes moniker "the Song-book of the Orthodox Church" are in fact the source material for the Anavathmoi.

The grouping of Psalms 119 through 133 (*Septuagint*) are in fact called together "The Psalms of Ascent" and it is precisely these psalms that the fathers of Studion, an important monastery in Constantinople, used for the composition of the Anavathmoi. It is believed that these particular psalms were sung as pilgrims and travelers ascended toward Jerusalem. For this reason these hymns are placed before the Orthros Gospel as we are ascending toward the proclamation of Christ's saving truth which will be read to us imminently, which symbolically will lift us up to the heavenly Jerusalem.

Let's look at a few examples how the Church expounded upon the psalm verses in creating the Anavathmoi, looking at two of the modes, 1st mode and Plagal 4th:

### **Psalm 119:1**

Πρὸς Κύριον ἐν τῷ θλίβεσθαί με ἐκέκραξα, καὶ εἰσήκουσέ μου.  
In my distress I cry to the Lord, that he may answer me.

### **Anavathmoi 1st mode, 1st antiphon, 1st verse**

Ἐν τῷ θλίβεσθαί με, εἰσάκουσόν μου τῶν ὀδυνῶν, Κύριε σοὶ κράζω.  
When I am afflicted, hearken to my distress; Lord, to You I cry out.

### **Psalm 121:1-2**

Εὐφράνθην ἐπὶ τοῖς εἰρηκόσι μοι· εἰς οἶκον Κυρίου πορευσόμεθα. ἐστῶτες ἦσαν οἱ πόδες ἡμῶν ἐν ταῖς ἀύλαις σου, Ἱερουσαλήμ.  
I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the Lord!” Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

### **Anavathmoi 1st mode, 3rd antiphon, 1st verse**

Ἐπὶ τοῖς εἰρηκόσι μοι· Ὁδεύσωμεν εἰς τὰς αὐλὰς τοῦ Κυρίου· εὐφράνθη μου τὸ πνεῦμα, συγχαίρει ἡ καρδία.  
Because they said to me, Let us journey to the courts of the Lord, my spirit has been cheered, and my heart rejoices also.

### **Psalm 128:1-2**

Πλεονάκις ἐπολέμησάν με ἐκ νεότητός μου, εἰπάτω δὴ Ἰσραὴλ· πλεονάκις ἐπολέμησάν με ἐκ νεότητός μου, καὶ γὰρ οὐκ ἠδυνήθησάν μοι.  
“Often have they attacked me from my youth” —let Israel now say— “often have they attacked me from my youth yet they have not prevailed against me.

### **Anavathmoi Plagal 4th mode, 1st antiphon, 1st verse**

Ἐκ νεότητός μου ὁ ἐχθρὸς με πειράζει, ταῖς ἡδοναῖς φλέγει με· ἐγὼ δὲ πεποιθώς, ἐν σοὶ Κύριε τροποῦμαι τοῦτον.  
From my youth does the enemy tempt me, and with the pleasures he scorches me. But trusting You, O Lord, monumentally do I defeat him.

### **Psalm 128:4-6**

Κύριος δίκαιος συνέκοψεν αὐχένας ἀμαρτωλῶν. Αἰσχυνθήτωσαν καὶ ἀποστραφήτωσαν εἰς τὰ ὀπίσω πάντες οἱ μισοῦντες Σιών. γενηθήτωσαν ὡσεὶ χόρτος δωμάτων, ὃς πρὸ τοῦ ἐκσπασθῆναι ἐξηράνθη·  
The Lord is righteous; he has cut the cords of the wicked. May all who hate Zion be put to shame and turned backward. Let them be like the grass on the housetops that withers before it grows up.

### **Anavathmoi Plagal 4th mode, 1st antiphon, 2nd verse**

Οἱ μισοῦντες Σιών, γενηθήτωσαν δὴ, πρὶν ἐκσπασθῆναι ὡς χόρτος· συγκόψει γὰρ Χριστός, αὐχένας αὐτῶν, τομῇ βασάνων.  
Let the haters of Zion become as the grass is before it is plucked up. For Christ will also cut their necks with the cutting sword of torments.

Thus we see that the fathers of the Church have taken the Psalms of Ascent and reworked them, such that we understand that, as members of the New Jerusalem, our battles are now spiritual, our enemy is the Devil and that it is Christ who is the righteous judge who judges the wicked. Such beautiful poetry is represented throughout our services and yet again we see that the Old Testament, and in this case, the psalms of the Prophet David, is yet again fulfilled by the Church.

## OUTREACH

Holy Cross Outreach continues to reach out to our local, national, and international communities. Holy Cross Parishioners are very generous and giving. The donations given each Outreach Sunday have made a difference and touched so many lives.

- ❖ The January collection was **\$521**. With Father Peter's guidance, \$200 of it was given to a family outside of Church asking for assistance. The remaining balance of \$321 was sent to John's Closet to buy new clothes for needy children.
- ❖ The February collection of **\$623** was sent to First Step for Families in San Mateo to help abused women with children to be safe and help them to put their lives together.
- ❖ Our collection of **\$670** in March, went to the Bonnie J. Addario Cancer Fund for research, in memory of Presbyteria Krissy Flesoras.
- ❖ We collected **\$667** in April, and gave \$210 to Philoptochos for Easter flowers, and the remainder of \$457 went to My New Red Shoes, a wonderful organization that supplies new shoes for needy children.
- ❖ The May collection of **\$447** was sent to Life Moves in Redwood City. That amount was enough to send a young child to summer camp; who otherwise would not be able to go because their parents couldn't afford to pay.
- ❖ In June, the collection was **\$526**, and we reached out to OCPM, Orthodox Christian Prison Ministry. They are a visiting ministry administering the forgotten people who made the wrong choices.
- ❖ The July collection of **\$858** went to a special organization in Samos, Greece, that helps the unfortunate, helpless refugees that no one wanted.
- ❖ The August collection of **\$703** was split, with \$503 going to John's Closet, and \$200 given to the Bonnie J. Addario Cancer Fund.
- ❖ We collected **\$941** in September, and **\$561** in October. These amounts were given to IOCC, a fund to aid the victims of the hurricanes in Louisiana.
- ❖ The amount of **\$673** collected in November was sent to Father John Kocolas in Novato to aid with relief of the devastating North Bay fires.
- ❖ December is Christmas Family Sharing Program Month, so chair Anastasia Stamates collected. However, each year at ORA's Christmas meeting, I ask the senior group to donate to the needy families Holy Cross has adopted. Their generous donation was **\$1400** in 2017 and was given to Father Peter and Anastasia for our Christmas Family Sharing Program.

The Holy Cross Outreach collection total for 2017 is **\$8590!** Thank you, Holy Cross parishioners for continuing your generosity. Your donations have touched many lives and many children, and it warms my heart. Sincere thanks to you all. You have "outreached" yourselves.

## YOUTH NEWS



Congratulations to our basketball players and coaches who showed the Golden State Warriors that they aren't the only winners in the Bay Area. Playing in the OYAA (Orthodox Youth Athletic Association) this past season, our teams won trophies for: Boys Varsity High School (2018 Champions), Girls Junior Varsity Elementary School (2018 Champions) and Boys Junior Varsity Middle School (Second Place).



High schoolers with teacher Athena Koutsonikolas (third from left)

## CHANT MINISTRIES – Intro Classes!

by Ross Ritterman ([ross.ritterman@gmail.com](mailto:ross.ritterman@gmail.com))

The chant ministry is pleased to offer introductory classes with the goal of educating interested members of the parish who would like to learn more about the characteristics of Byzantine music.

Classes will explore the eight-mode system and their sounds, important compositions, the structure of the services and the development of its compositions that continue into the present. Please contact Ross Ritterman (ross.ritterman@gmail.com) for more information. Classes will likely last 90 minutes on a to-be-determined weeknight.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please let the church office know if we are missing your sacrament or have incorrect information.

### **BAPTISMS & CHRISMATIONS**

- February 10 – Dan (Anastasia) Ye, daughter of Mengyi Ye & Manqui Yang; Michael & Yulie Kolovos, sponsors
- March 17 – Domenic Peter, son of Elias Galanakis & Carolina Najlis; Victoria Galanakis, sponsor
- April 21 – Bradley Nicholas, son of Anirban Banerjee & Nomiki Kolettis; Irene & Ross Ritterman and Evdokia Koletti, sponsors
- April 22 – Michael Steven, son of Steven Gemelos & Megan Zemny; George Gemelos, sponsor
- May 20 – Beibei (Vasiliki), daughter of Jiawei Gu & Jinglan Shi; Nicole Frangos, sponsor
- May 26 – Illiana, daughter of George Pappas & Adriani Giakumelu; Katerina Vourthis, sponsor
- June 2 – Daphne Olivia, daughter of Robert Siller & Xenia Prionas; Nicolas Prionas, sponsor
- June 30 – Mia Artemisa, daughter of Aristotle Tsekouras & Marisa Torres; Athanasia Papalias and Angie Vrakas, sponsors
- June 30 – Andreas Aristotle, son of Aristotle Tsekouras & Marisa Torres; Carol Tsekouras, sponsor
- June 30 – Eleni Eva, daughter of Aristotle Tsekouras & Marisa Torres; Andreas Tsekouras, sponsor

### **WEDDINGS**

- February 10 – Nikos Pagratis & Dan Ye; Michael Kolovos, sponsor
- April 14 – Jonathan Michael & Dayna Pettit; Ross Ritterman, sponsor
- July 7 – Nicholas Kounalakis & Meadow Robinson; Dimitri Maziotis, sponsor

### **FUNERALS**

- Betty Gagianas, who fell asleep in the Lord, February 10
- Mary Makreas, who fell asleep in the Lord, February 17
- Antonia Tambakakis, who fell asleep in the Lord, February 26
- Jane Pelekoudas, who fell asleep in the Lord, March 1
- John Spiliotis, who fell asleep in the Lord, March 1
- Bessie Smith, who fell asleep in the Lord, March 3
- Andy Papas, who fell asleep in the Lord, March 4
- John Ray III, who fell asleep in the Lord, April 2
- Diane Bates, who fell asleep in the Lord, May 7
- Anastasios Loufas, who fell asleep in the Lord, May 10
- George James Nicholas Sr., who fell asleep in the Lord, June 5
- Maria Rutherford, who fell asleep in the Lord, June 7
- Pari Spallas, who fell asleep in the Lord, June 15
- Evelyn Pappageorge, who fell asleep in the Lord, June 21

## EASTER CARDS

We missed including some names in this year's Community Easter Card, but include them here with our wishes for a safe and happy Summer!

*Ross & Irene Ritterman  
George Stergion & Family*



by Mary Clay, 2018 Greek Festival Chair

Happy Summer!

You may be wondering... what happened with those great Festival ideas and changes you heard about earlier this year?? Well... if you haven't been in tune... keep reading!



News Flash!!!

- We've added to the Tech Team... and are working on many aspects like...
  - New Festival Website... wait until you see this! It's simple. It's fun. It's easy... and it's almost done. The new site will give us the ability to:
    - Connect easier to the local community and the community at large
    - Pre-sell entry tickets on line
    - Capture the demographics of our guests
    - Allow for better placement of Sponsor logo's and advertising
    - And it come with many more options for future changes to drive revenues and attendance
  - A new logo
- "The Greek Isle"... We've conceptualized and envisioned an area outside by the classrooms which would allow us to highlight the Mediterranean diet in a farm to fork setting, just like you might see in Greece.
  - Including ingredients and recipes for traditional dishes – feta, olives, *horta*, herbs and spices, nuts, olive oil, grape leaves, a Greek yogurt bar, etc. ... The interest in this has been overwhelming. We have sponsors and are working on more sponsors, along with the right décor... a new trend for all other festivals to follow!
  - We anticipate this to start in 2018... and to evolve year after year.
  - Keep watching for more information and how you can help – from making décor to creating connections!!!



Check below (or the *Sunday Bulletin* or the church website) for the summer cooking and baking schedule. All hands are welcome! Come help and learn from the experts what makes Belmont food the best in the bay.

Get involved  
 Drive the change  
 Drive the excitement  
 Drive the trend!



Contact me NOW! [festivalchairs@goholycross.org](mailto:festivalchairs@goholycross.org)  
 Looking for help in the following areas:

- Kalamari Booth Chair
- Marketing Manager
- Social Media assistance
- Connections to local Grocers / Greek grocers

**The Belmont  
 Greek Festival –  
 It’s a Big deal!**

Volunteer your time and talent (beginners & pros welcomed!) to help with Festival Cooking and Baking:

July 21,22	Spanokopeta	Othonia Makris 650-593-2537; Niki Dakis 650-345-0104
July 21,22	Tiropeta	Niki Dakis 650-345-0104; Othonia Makris 650-593-2537
July 28,29	Moussaka	Chair, Thomy Iuppa 408-737-7291
Aug 4,5	Baklava	Emmy Denton 415-987-3130; Marian Peris 650-504-8136
Aug 11,12	Galactoboureko	Tanya Spirtos 650-279-9776; Marian Peris 650-504-8136
Aug 16	Kourambedes	Terry Smith 650-595-4363
Aug 18	Yuvetsi	Chris Canellos 650-529-0180; Emmy Denton 650-529-0180
Aug 20,21	Pastichio	Father Peter 650-591-4447; Kathy Polychroniou 650-593-7425

**CONGRATULATIONS TO . . .**  
 Gail Demakas O’Brien *recipient of a recent Jefferson Award for Public and Community Service!*  
*These Awards were established in 1972 by Jacqueline Kennedy, U.S. Senator Robert Taft Jr., and Sam Beard as a “Nobel Prize” for public service.*

Gail O’Brien is being honored for her ongoing and devoted commitment to supporting low-income families in our community by spearheading the annual holiday gift giving drive in our NorCal offices benefiting the Judith Baker Child Care Center located South of Market. The Judith Baker campus serves low-income, recent immigrant and homeless populations and is one of three facilities run by the South of Market Child Care non-profit organization, which has been a strong

presence and highly regarded institution in San Francisco's South of Market (SOMA) neighborhood for over 40 years. What started as a discrete program reaching 30 preschoolers has since grown to become a major early childhood education institution serving 130+ infants and young children, and hundreds of families each year.

For the past 15 years, Gail has taken the lead in organizing and running the gift-giving drive in our Northern California offices and in 2017 over 47 gifts and a \$150 gift card donation were provided to families at the Judith Baker facility.

It goes without saying that Gail O'Brien is deserving of this recognition for her long-standing commitment to providing a joyous holiday season for those who cannot afford to do so on their own.

This month, Gail was invited to attend the Jefferson Awards Foundation National Ceremony in Washington, D.C. representing Reed Smith's Northern California offices.



**HOLY CROSS PRESCHOOL** ([preschool@goholycross.org](mailto:preschool@goholycross.org))

### ... is Now Enrolling for Fall 2018

Are you looking for a high quality, nurturing, ½ day, faith-based program for your preschool child? Then Holy Cross Preschool is the place for you! We have caring teachers,



flexible programming options, and a supportive family-centered environment. We offer a curriculum grounded in faith and designed to prepare your child for kindergarten and the world beyond. Email our



director Chris Shreve at [preschool@goholycross.org](mailto:preschool@goholycross.org) to schedule a tour and reserve your child or grandchild's space today! For details about our programs, please see our website: [www.holycrossbelmont.com](http://www.holycrossbelmont.com) Instagram, or Facebook page. LIC 414000251.

# CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS

900 Alameda

BELMONT CA 94002-1604



Thank you to the over 300 parishioners and parishioner families who have sent in their 2018 pledge cards. If you haven't done so yet, please send in your pledge. Use the pledge form and return envelope that were sent to you in November, or send in your Stewardship Pledge, Stewardship, and other donations **on-line** at our website. Visit [www.goholycross.org](http://www.goholycross.org) and click on the "Stewardship 2018" banner at the top. Thank you for your support of Holy Cross Church!