

SAINT SOPHIA

*Axiologa*

*"worth mentioning"*



**DECEMBER 8, 2019**

*10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke*

## **FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

George E. Preonas, President; Gig Kyriacou, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President; Jim Zaferis; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President; Constantine M. Boukidis, Secretary; Tina Callas, Treasurer

### **MEMBERS**

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### **TRUSTEES EMERITUS**

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## **PARISH COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **EXECUTIVE OFFICERS**

Dean Peratsakis, President; Glenn Lianos, Vice President; Anna Yallourakis, Vice President; Bill Striglos, Treasurer; Kathleen Kyriacou, Assistant Treasurer; Dinah Wellington, Secretary

### **MEMBERS**

Bertha Angels, Daniel Settelmayer; Greg Beers; Jeanine Hanna; Peter Cosfol; Tonifaye Palomares; Victoria Deryiades; Julian Rebiga; Andrew Powell, Associate Member

### **BOARD OF AUDITORS:**

Jim Boltinghouse, Nicholas Manolelis, Michele Panagiota Olivar

Saint Sophia Cathedral  
1324 S. Normandie Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90006

Office: 323.737.2424  
[www.saintsophia.org/bulletin](http://www.saintsophia.org/bulletin)

*When you write your will or update it, won't you please remember Saint Sophia Cathedral? Such a gift will live forever as our church ministers to our spiritual needs. It's an investment in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.*

## MINISTRY NEWS

1. **Today:** Christmas Musicfest
2. **Today:** Parish Council Elections
3. **December 12:** VIP Christmas Luncheon
4. **December 15:** Bake Sale

## BIBLE FAITH STUDIES

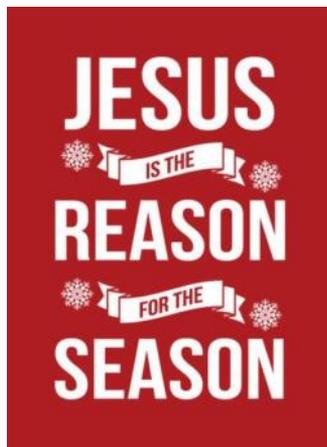
Fr. John Bakas and Fr. Christopher Kolentsas will conduct community Bible & Faith Studies every Sunday after Divine Liturgy. We will meet immediately at 12 pm in the Chapel. For those who are planning to attend, coffee will be available outside the chapel for you to enjoy during bible studies.

It is imperative that we all grow in the Faith. All are welcome. Bring your Bible and be prepared to study Sunday's Epistle Reading. Remember that Faith comes through understanding.

## 2019 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Dear Saint Sophia Parishoners,

Giving back to our community can be very rewarding. Elections will take place **today, December 8<sup>th</sup>**. Thank you.





Twenty-second

Annual

Christmas Musicfest

under the Byzantine Dome

Sunday, December 8, 2019

Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral

7:00 p.m.

Reception immediately following concert

Featuring the Saint Sophia Cathedral Choir and Chamber Ensemble directed by Jim Kollias with soloists Karen Sarames, Katherine Lambros Spilos, Janine Tavoularis and Christopher Yokas and our special guests from the Shnorhali Choir of Saint Leon Armenian Cathedral, Burbank California directed by Raffi Mikaelian all presenting Orthodox Christmas hymns plus several selections from the English Carol Tradition along with traditional sing-along carols of the holiday season. Freewill offering. Reception immediately following the concert. It is a wonderful and joyous way to begin the Christmas holiday season.



## **Saint Sophia Cathedral Stewardship Drive**

Goal:

**\$750,000**

Pledged and Paid:

**\$438, 000**

Percentage of goal to date:

**58.4%**

**We Cordially Invite the Parish Families to  
fill up a Stewardship Card**

It is important to plan your donation to help in the parish ministries. The donations made to the parish are tax deductible and is useful for your yearly tax returns. Also, sometimes there is a need of a letter for legal matters and if you are not a steward in good standing there are no informational facts available. For more information please visit the parish office or talk to a parish council member during coffee hour.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED IN THE BOOKSTORE

Our fabulous Saint Sophia Bookstore is in need of volunteers who are enthusiastically passionate about books. If you're willing to offer your support and assistance please contact Bill Striglos or Dean Peratsakis via email at [wstriglos@sbcglobal.net](mailto:wstriglos@sbcglobal.net) or [dotos@msn.com](mailto:dotos@msn.com) or call (213) 804-1283. Thank you.



## SPEAKING OF BOOKS

Father Christopher has offered us some recommended reading, encouraging all of us, in particular those of us who are parents, to read "**Making God Real in the Orthodox Christian Home**" by Fr. Anthony Coniaris.

*In the "domestic church," parents, like the Orthodox priest, represent God to their children. Here is a wonderful book filled with ideas to help Orthodox Christian parents become effective religious educators in their own homes.*

Read it, share it, discuss it with your family, your friends and with Father Christopher and Father John. The book is available in our Saint Sophia Bookstore, where you will also find many other great books, Bibles, icons, jewelry, greeting cards and much more. **The Saint Sophia Bookstore, a great place to shop for Christmas!**

*Sunday, December 15*



## **ST. SOPHIA CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE**

Baklava, Melomakarona,  
Kourambiedes, and more!



**Pre-Order Available!**

Must be made by 12/8/19

Contact Anna Aronis **323-450-6980**

PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE ST. SOPHIA DANCE PROGRAM

# GLENDI 2020

SUPPORT THE SAINT SOPHIA  
DANCE PROGRAM

**Saturday February 8th, 2020**

RSVP by January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to  
[st.sophia.folkdance@gmail.com](mailto:st.sophia.folkdance@gmail.com)

Featuring: **DIESI**

playing traditional music  
from all over Greece.



**Cocktails/Appetizers: 6:00pm**

Price: \$65 - Adult | \$40 - Dancers & Kids under 12, \$20 after 9:00pm

Silent Auction with great items to help support the dance program

St sophia Maniatakos Hall 1324 S Normandie Ave.

## DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

During the month of December, the Daughters of Penelope offers help to combat domestic violence and abuse. To help with our donations, we will be selling SEE'S CANDY at the coffee hour! We have a wonderful selection of chocolates for you to choose from: nuts and chews, assorted chocolates and small mini boxes that will be a great addition to your holiday gifts! We donate to women and children's shelter where these families receive the help they need to get back on their feet and get away from the abuse they have suffered. Please help us by purchasing some candy! We will keep selling until we sell out. There's always room for SEE'S!



## **PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

**THANK YOU** to everyone who donated to our canned food drive and toy drive for the families we are helping. Everything was so greatly appreciated! It's wonderful to see the community join together to help those who need it. The families and children are so excited and happy when they receive the toys and foods. This is the 'Spirit of Christmas'!

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Our wonderful Saint Sophia Choir will be performing their yearly Christmas Concert tonight - Sunday, DECEMBER 8 - under the direction of our wonderful Jim Kollias and Chris Yokas. So it's time again that the Cathedral is asking for donations of cookies! You may bake - or buy - Christmas cookies. Cookies with frosting, sprinkles, M&M's, sugar cookies or chocolate chip....any donation will be welcome. For the sake of setup at the church before the concert, PLEASE bring your cookies to the church, labeled "Christmas Concert" BEFORE 4:30 p.m. It takes time to make up the platters and the concert starts at 7:00 p.m. I hope everyone makes an effort to attend and hear the angelic sounds of our choir!

**PROJECT CHRISTMAS CHEER:** We are spreading Christmas cheer to those who are not able to participate in church this holiday season. Please send us your loved ones name and address where they are, on or before December 15th. The Sunshine Committee will be delivering holiday plants to those who are at home, in hospitals and senior living facilities. We want each of our loved ones to know how much we miss them, we need them and we love them! Volunteers are welcome to help with the distribution of these beautiful holiday plants. We will have a table set up in the Maniatakos Fellowship Hall /foyer after church on December 15th for pick-up and delivery. Please feel free to contact Elaine Bissias by email at [Naeisekala@hotmail.com](mailto:Naeisekala@hotmail.com) or text her at (818) 434-6047. As we bless others our prayers will be answered.

*continued*

## **PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

**ANGEL TREE:** We are collecting NEW toys and books for families that need some happiness for Christmas and the holiday season. If it is a new toy or book, just bring it as is - and do not wrap it. If you have any questions chairman Christina Peratsakis will be happy to talk with you. We need the presents back **no later than December 12<sup>th</sup>** to distribute at a holiday Christmas party. We know it's short notice but please do the best you can and bring your donation NEXT Sunday to church!

**VASILOPITA** Sunday will be on January 5, 2020! Please plan to stay after church, come into the hall and let's all join together for the beginning of the New Year. Committee chairmen Diane and Elaine Bissias and Katrina Beers are planning a lovely time for all of us.

**True happiness is found in doing things for others. This holiday season, perhaps you'd like to do something for someone else. Make a donation to a children's hospital, one of the missions down on Skid Row, or some other agency where you live. We know we cannot solve all of the problems in society but at least we can make a small 'dent' and have the true spirit of Christmas in our hearts.**

Do what you can with what you have, where you are. The beauty of life does not depend on how happy you are but how happy others can be because of you.

“What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others remains forever.”

I'm looking forward to the New Year and the work ahead of us. Our philanthropic work for those who need us never ends.

With love in Christ's service,  
Virginia Noyes



## **PHILOPTOCHOS VIP NEWS**

I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving!

Our last event of the year is The Famous VIP Christmas Luncheon on Thursday December 12, 2019 at 11:30 am. Donation \$30.00

This years event chair is Jayne Poulos, co-chair is Karla Gregg. We are having two people for Reservations to accommodate you. You may contact Karla Gregg at 253-224-3705 or Mersy Loukaris at 323-661-1592, cell 213-500-5193.

Please mark your calendar to attend. As you know we always have a famous person from the North coming to visit.

In His service,  
Angela Ananias, VIP president



## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

Students are dismissed at Holy Communion each Sunday to attend their classes. Classes are held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Huffington Center. It is never too late, so please register or re-register your student during or after classes in the meeting room near the Sunday School office. Calendars are available to pick-up if you have not received them by email. If you are not receiving emails from the Sunday School program, please send an email to [stsophiasundayschool@gmail.com](mailto:stsophiasundayschool@gmail.com). If you have any questions about the Sunday School program, please see Eleni Yokas.

SAINT SOPHIA PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY

*“Mother of the Year”*

Nomination Form

The Mother of the Year is selected by the Saint Sophia Philoptochos Society Board of Directors and honored at the Mother’s Day Luncheon and Fashion Show in May. Nominations are accepted until December 31st.

Nomination Requirements and Selection Criteria Listed by Priority:

1. Must be a member of Saint Sophia Philoptochos Society.
2. Must be a member of Saint Sophia Cathedral in good standing.
3. A devoted volunteer to philanthropy within Philoptochos, who exemplifies and personifies its ideals and purposes.
4. A devoted volunteer and a dedicated supporter of our Church and our Community.

NOMINEE’S NAME:

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Volunteer Service within Philoptochos:

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Volunteer Service to Church and Community:

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(You may use an additional separate sheet to describe your reasons for this nomination, if necessary)

Name of person submitting nomination:

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*Please return this form in a sealed envelope to:*

Saint Sophia Philoptochos Society

1324 South Normandie Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90006

**Deadline: DECEMBER 31, 2019**

SAINT SOPHIA WINTER CAMP 2019

# Saint Sophia Winter Camp 2019

## Calling all Campers !!

### Apply online now !!

**One week only**  
Sunday, December 29 -  
Wednesday, January 1, 2020

**Thousand Pines Camp**  
359 Thousand Pines Road  
Crestline, CA 92325  
thousandpines.com



Southern California's Favorite Camp !!  
and first choice for fun !!



 [facebook.com/SaintSophiaCamp](https://facebook.com/SaintSophiaCamp)

 [Instagram.com/CampSaintSophia](https://Instagram.com/CampSaintSophia)

 [twitter.com/SaintSophiaCamp](https://twitter.com/SaintSophiaCamp)

[SaintSophiaCamp.org](https://SaintSophiaCamp.org)



## **PARISH COUNCIL SHORT BIOGRAPHIES:**

The following individuals names will be on the 2019 Parish Council Ballots including Bertha Angels.

### **VICKIE DERYIADES**

Nothing more meaningful on this earth than being connected to the Holy Trinity, to our faith as Greek Orthodox Christians to our church community and all our families.

Outside our beloved Saint Sophia Cathedral as we walk up the stairs is a sign "Mission Statement". Please read it.. Not just words but a way to live and truly believe, to reach out.

At your pews is a white prayer card. Open it up and you will read about the Sacrament of Unity. About the Spiritual Embrace. To embrace one another with a kiss of Agapi saying " Christ is in our midst, He is and always shall be"

I am so grateful to our Lord for leading me back to our beloved Cathedral in 2007. I have learned so much about our faith by attending church liturgies and bible studies. I have learned the importance of Stewardship and to encourage others to become stewards and volunteers. With warmth greeting our parishioners and welcoming new guests, hopeful that they might also become Greek Orthodox Christians.

There is so much work yet to be done, so many concepts and ideas, united in Christ. There isn't a bridge we can't cross. Our priests hold the lit candle and so it is that we can follow.

Thank you so much,

Vickie Deryiades

## DEAN PERATSAKIS

Of the many service opportunities, I've involved myself with, here at Saint Sophia, I've always recognized an immense satisfaction from my participation as a Sunday school teacher, a volunteer role that I'm happy to share with my wife, Christina. As I often remind our Sunday school students, the reason I'm in class with them, every Sunday, is because I too have so much to learn. I'm quite certain that statement applies to every aspect of my life, as I strive to grow and evolve as a servant in Christ's church.

In the past, I have served at our Saint Sophia camp, as co-chair of our Saint Sophia Stewardship Ministry, the Amnos Ministry and also, along with my wife, as co-chair of our Saint Sophia Mr. & Mrs. Club. Currently, I serve as president of our Saint Sophia parish council.

Over the years, I've come to learn a great deal from Father John, Father Christopher and other spiritual Fathers who have served at Saint Sophia, but I've also grown and learned much from each of you. I welcome the opportunity to continue growing and learning, as a servant in Christ's church, Saint Sophia, where opportunity abounds, if elected, again, to the parish council. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Dean Peratsakis

**ANDREW POWELL**

It has been a privilege and honor to be an active parishioner at Saint Sophia Cathedral since we arrived in Los Angeles in 2004. I was raised in Ohio, and my career brought me to the West; working in San Francisco, Japan, Seattle and finally Los Angeles. My wife (Melinda Tsapatsaris) and I were married in 2009 in Columbus, Ohio at The Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. My childhood upbringing was in the Presbyterian faith, my journey led me to the Orthodox faith with love, spirituality, loyalty and trust. I began catechism classes in 2013 and was baptized at Saint Sophia Cathedral in 2014. As a father of three children, our family is very active at Saint Sophia Cathedral. I have supported Saint Sophia Cathedral through volunteering at Greek Festival's, children's Sunday schools and the Greek Dance Ministry.

My goals with joining the Parish Council are to serve the Lord, Saint Sophia Cathedral, community, and to continue to serve our Cathedral with faith for the current and future generations.

Best regards,  
Andrew Powell

## **RAMZI SEIKALY**

I have tried through the Lord's grace and love apply "Praxis" faith in action and have tried to live by this motto—"Make the most of what you have to attain the most of what you need in order to achieve the most of what you want." And may I add above all else let the Lord guide through it all. To paraphrase from Proverbs 3:5-6 Do not lean on your understanding but trust in the Lord in all that you do and say and he will make your path straight. Well I can tell you this, that I have been working on this all my life. To serve and not to be served. To be of value through love and thus be valued as part of the process of applying God's love and Grace through service in the vineyard the Lord has made.

I was born of both Hellenic and Lebanese-Palestinian descent. An American expat meaning a second-generation US Citizen born abroad. My Family has deep roots in Orthodoxy, Greek Orthodoxy dating back several hundred years if not more. They built the first Orthodox Church in Haifa, Israel and several are entombed in its walls. I was raised Greek Orthodox and despite my mixed ethnicity I have maintained first and foremost my spiritual roots beyond my ethnic ties. If you do want to know, for my Greek brethren, part of my family hails from the Island of Syros, just south of Andros. They migrated in the 1800's to Lebanon. I have tried to maintain and promote my Hellenic ideas in work and in life. Primarily producing a weekly live Greek Radio program for nine years "Opa From Greece With Love" and monthly column with the Greek Press based in Chicago. I have served in the altar at Saint Sophia for nearly 30 years. And continue to serve in whatever capacity the Lord needs and guides me to do. I have taught and performed professionally the art of the Greek Folk Dance including several years producing the FDF Videos.

Do all these serve a purpose? Only that I am not a spring chicken! What I want you to get out of this bio is that my Orthodox faith has, is and will remain the guiding light of who I am and what I have been called to do. I am a graduate of American University in Washington DC. I have worked most of my life in various avenues of the visual entertainment industry (Film, Video, Radio and Print) the latter two are affiliated with the first two medias. At Saint Sophia, I have served in the altar for many years. I bring to the table my heart, soul and love of the Orthodox faith and ask your diligent support by voting your confidence in me to better serve you and this community "that is the lighthouse of hope on the rocky shores of LA."

## **DR. ANNA YALLOURAKIS**

Anna has been a devoted member of Saint Sophia's Parish Council consecutively for seven years and has served as an executive board member for the past three years.

She is also an active member of the Sunday School ministry, having taught the high school classes for five years.

In 2017, Anna received a call from a friend asking for help with an orphanage located in the outskirts of Kolkata, India. The orphanage, The Theotokos Girls' and Boys' Orphanage, has been run for 25 years by Sister Nektaria. Sister has been working tirelessly to save young girls from human trafficking and provide them with a nurturing and strong education.

Upon hearing Sister's burden, Anna felt a call to mission. She traveled to India in April 2017 and produced a documentary, *Ekota*, which documents Sister Nektaria's plight in building a new school for the orphans and the core issues of human trafficking.

In spring of 2019, with the blessing of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, a Pan-Orthodox Metropolis fundraiser was held to complete the St Ignatius School (Grades Pre-K – 12) in Bakeswar, India. Soon after the successful event, Anna was appointed Executive Director of Fili, Inc., a non-profit whose main charity is the Theotokos Girls' and Boys' Orphanage in India.

Anna is truly grateful for the opportunity to serve Saint Sophia Cathedral and help the Church spread the Word of Christ. She speaks Greek fluently and enjoys baking baklava.

# The Mission of Saint Sophia Cathedral

1. *Proclaim and teach the Gospel according to the Orthodox Christian Faith*
2. *Sanctify and enhance the spiritual life of the faithful through Orthodox Christian worship.*
3. *Receive persons into the Church through instruction, baptism and/or chrismation.*

## Orthodox Calendar

### DECEMBER 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
 1 <b>14<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke</b> 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Memorials 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Bible Faith Studies	 2	 3 Bible Studies Class w/ Fr. John 11 am	 4 <b>Barbara the Great Martyr</b> 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	 5	 6 <b>St. Nicholas the Wonderworker</b> 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	 7
 8 <b>10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke</b> 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Memorials 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Bible Faith Studies	 9	 10	 11	 12 <b>Spyridon the Wonderworker</b> 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	 13	 14
 15 <b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of St. Luke</b> 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Memorials 10:00 Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Bible Faith Studies	 16	 17	 18	 19	 20	 21
 22 <b>Sunday before Nativity</b> 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Memorials 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Bible Faith Studies	 23	 24 Christmas Eve Vespers Liturgy 6 pm	25 <b>Nativity of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ</b> 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	26	27 <b>Stephen, Archdeacon and First Martyr</b> 9:00 am Orthros 10:00 am Divine Liturgy	28
29 <b>Sunday after Nativity</b> 8:30 am Orthros 9:45 am Memorials 10:00 am Divine Liturgy 12:30 pm Bible Faith Studies	30	31				
		Strict Fast  	Fish Allowed  	Wine and Oil Allowed  	Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed  	Fast Free