

A Report for the Metropolis Council and  
Clergy Laity Assembly

The Ministry of Christian Formation & Religious Education in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco serves as a hub for the dissemination of information and resources and a point of con-

tact for parish religious educators. Since Christian formation is a lifelong process, the ministry strives to develop programs that support both adult and youth learners as well as classroom instructors and program directors. The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco currently provides resources for catechists in a variety of forms, including a robust website containing educational links, lessons, articles, lesson plans and activities for teachers and parents, regular online gatherings of catechists, and Christian Education webinars for adults.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Paraskevè (Eve) Tibbs, Christian Education Ministry Lead

Contact: [etibbs@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:etibbs@sanfran.goarch.org)

## RECENT ADULT EDUCATION SEMINARS

ICONOGRAPHY, *Iconographers*, and ICONS



**Rev. Father Tom Tsagalakis**  
PRESIDING PRIEST, HOLY APOSTLES  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
(SHORELINE, WA)



**Rev. Dr. Michael Courey**  
PRESIDING PRIEST, ST. KATHERINE  
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
(REDONDO BEACH, CA)

September 18, 2023

Monday | 6:30-8:00 pm  
JANUARY 29

**Adult Christian Education**  
*Webinar*



**Father Tom Tsagalakis**  
"The Icon: A Door into the Sacred"



**Dr. Paraskevè (Eve) Tibbs**  
"What Icons Teach Us"

January 29, 2024

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION MINISTRY WEBSITES

**Catechetical Resources: for Parents and Teachers**

<https://religioused.sanfran.goarch.org>

**St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival:**

<https://SForatorical.org>



## ONLINE THEOLOGY COURSE IN MAY & JUNE

### ADULT THEOLOGY COURSE

#### *very short* A <sup>^</sup>BASIC COURSE in *Orthodox Theology*

5 WEEKS beginning WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

ZOOM ONLY: 5:00 - 6:50 PM (Pacific time)



REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: [HTTPS://ORTHODOXYOU.COM/REGISTER](https://orthodoxyou.com/register)



This short course will be taught by **PARASKEVE (EVE) TIBBS** (PhD Theology) the Ministry Lead for Christian Education in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, and author of *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology: Introducing Beliefs and Practices*.

A “**Very Short Basic Course in Orthodox Theology**” will take place via Zoom on five Wednesdays beginning May 15 (May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12) from 5:00-6:50 pm Pacific time. This fast moving introductory theology course is suitable for older teens and adults, with or without any previous theological background in the Orthodox Church.

Participation is free of charge, but registration is required to access the class through Zoom:

<https://OrthodoxYou.com/register>

May 15: The Orthodox Christian Worldview

May 22: Early Challenges and the Rule of Faith

May 29: Created for a purpose

June 5: The Holy Trinity

June 12: Orthodox Worship

## EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FOR PARENTS & CATECHISTS

### Teacher tested resources for home and Church School

- Take-home Lessons
- Activity Pages
- Videos
- Crafts
- Lesson Plans
- Tridion and Lenten Resources



Website: [ReligiousEd.sanfran.goarch.org](https://ReligiousEd.sanfran.goarch.org)

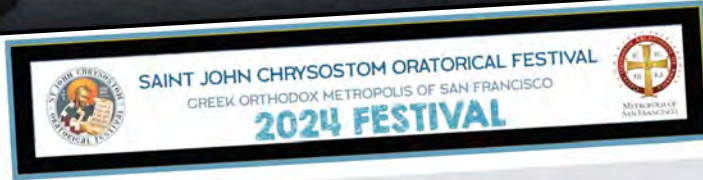


# SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL - 2024

## BOLDNESS OF SPEECH

"Therefore, since we have such hope,  
we use great boldness of speech" 2 Cor 3:12

Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 2024 | Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco



Home Contacts Speakers Chairpersons

2024 Festival Overview

For Parish Chairpersons-2024

For Speakers - 2024



Prepare for the 2024 Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Oratorical

Read More



The Parish Oratorical Festival may take place any time before April. The parish may determine whether the festival will be in-person and live (socially distanced), via Zoom, or via video submission.

Oratorical

Read More



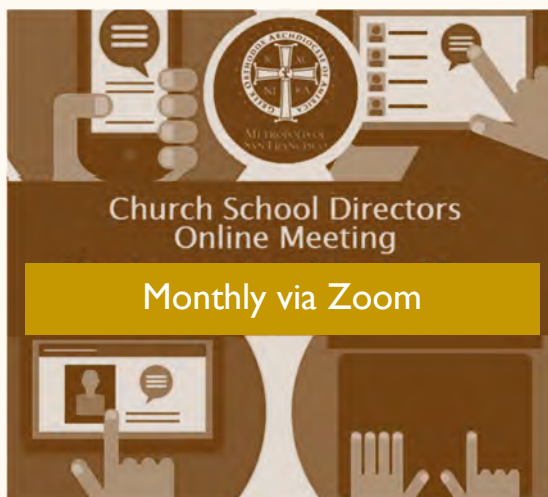
Three Easy Steps for Speakers 1) Let Chairperson know that you are planning. Find out whether it will be in-person, submission. 2) Register at the archdiocese. Select a topic from here: sforatorical.org. Be bold! Let light shine out of you.

Oratorical

Visit [www.SForatorical.net](http://www.SForatorical.net)

"Boldness of Speech is the Metropolis of San Francisco theme for the 2024 Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival from 2 Corinthians 3:12 "Therefore, since we have such hope, we use great boldness of speech." The Metropolis Oratorical Festival team includes myself, Mrs. Johanna Carter (Director of the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries) and Mrs. Aristi Anagnos from St. George, Downey. The Metropolis-level festival will take place on Saturday, May 11 at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont, CA. Our robust dedicated website: [SForatorical.net](http://SForatorical.net) presents all the information needed by participants, parents, and oratorical festival coordinators. We hope that you will encourage your young people to participate in this worthy ministry that offers them an important platform for researching, writing, and speaking about their Orthodox Christian Faith.

## FOR CHURCH SCHOOL DIRECTORS



2024 marks the eleventh year of regular face-to-face online meetings of Church School Directors throughout our metropolis. We typically meet on the 4th Monday of the month. Parish Church School Directors regularly express their gratitude at being able to share ideas and solutions with one another. Please let your parish Religious Ed Director(s) know about this in case word has not reached them. Directors should send an email to: [etibbs@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:etibbs@sanfran.goarch.org). to be included in the email meeting notifications.

## **Church Music Federation Ministry Report – 2024**

Over the last year, we are continuing to redevelop and grow our ministry to be a resource that parishes look to. Our small team has continued to reach out individually to parishes to see their needs, as well as reflect on what is working and what needs to change. This has allowed to support both individuals of all ages, and parish music programs. Some of the things that we have done:

### **Sustain Scholarships**

- In 2023, we awarded eight more Desby scholarships to individuals: three were under the age of 30.

### **Promote Education**

- We participated in the Monthly Ministry Series, presenting on the importance of Vespers and Orthros. This series was a key outreach in congregations understanding the background of these services.
- Development of a round-table zoom with a theme to allow church music leaders to come together, sharing high points and challenges to encourage each other and seek resources.
- Our Individual Parish Consultation Outreach has begun by the Church Music Development Team to identify the specific music education needs of our Metropolis parishes. This enables us to create and plan workshops, seminars, and YouTube videos that serve not only individual parishes but to plan regional events as well.
- Creation of an enrichment weekend at St. Nicholas Ranch, planned for the last weekend of October 2024.

### **Enhance Communication and Connection**

- Our utilization of the Constant Contact communication platform has allowed us to send the lively monthly newsletter, The Grace Note, and other timely updates to our growing mailing list.
- It has also allowed us to streamline the communication and registration process for in-person and online workshops, assisting local parishes in easily setting up events.
- Our Zoom platform has allowed us to hold our required twice yearly Plenary Information and Planning Meetings in a format that allows full access and participation to every steward and interested church musician. Zoom also enables us to present our on-line programs as well.

Our ministry Leadership Circle has worked tirelessly in efficient, thoughtful, and prayerful discussion and planning meetings to make the most of our resources. Team members seek support from each other, as well as feedback from others to help keep our ministry growing in the right direction. If you would like to contact us with any questions or feedback, please reach out!

In Christ,  
Christopher Hondros, Ministry Chair  
GOMSF Church Music Federation Ministry  
Website: [sfchurchmusic.org](http://sfchurchmusic.org)  
Email: [sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org)

# Clergy Continuing Education Ministry Report

January 31, 2024

Submitted by Fr. Jerry Markopoulos

[frgerasimos@sntgrg.org](mailto:frgerasimos@sntgrg.org)\*\*\*541.852.0143

From the Metropolis website:

The Clergy Continuing Education (CCE) Program is designed to provide on-going skill and knowledge development of our Clergy to assist in their personal growth and ministerial effectiveness.

To help establish the direction of the program, Clergy completed a comprehensive survey designed to identify their leading areas of interest and need. Based upon feedback and discussion, the key components of the CCE are:

- Clergy Portal. This “Clergy-only” section of our website will enable our Clergy to have an internet “home” allowing for the exchange of ideas, materials and development information.
- Webinars. Online, small group programs will be offered to Clergy on a regular basis.
- Seminars. Face-to-face local and regional programs will be provided to supplement the annual Clergy Retreat.
- Audio Library. Samples of liturgical music, special hymns and chanting will be made available online in order to assist Clergy in the development of their skills and knowledge in these areas.
- Course Catalog. A semi-annual listing of courses will be provided which will enable Clergy to select programs most meaningful to them.

Main Activities/Events completed in 2023

- Online training done for Koinonia Facilitators. Fr. Alex Goussetis shares his experience facilitating peer learning groups.
- Chrissie, Fr. Nicholas and Fr. Jerry meet virtually with Damian Manolis from the Patriarch Athenogoras Orthodox Institute (PAOI), to discuss whether a partnership with PAOI and the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) at Cal Berkley might be possible. That results in a follow-up meeting with representatives from the GTU. Additional meetings with representatives from the GTU took place over several months. We are putting together a proposal to

present to the Metropolis Council which outlines a plan to provide our clergy with an online continuing education platform.

- CCE Partnership Proposal prepared and presented to His Eminence. HE tasked us with doing some additional “groundwork” before deciding on the proposal.
- Discussion begun with Holly Benton of Orthodox Christian Coaching about offering a coaching cohort for newly ordained clergy. The mission of Orthodox Christian Coaching is to work side by side with clergy and ministry leaders to foster health in the communities. One of the ways they do this is by offering cohorts that address specific needs. Newly ordained clergy face unique challenges as they step into the role. We wish to partner with Orthodox Christian Coaching to develop a cohort to address these challenges. A proposal has been sent to His Eminence, but there has not been a meeting to discuss it.
- Fr. Nicholas steps away from the Team due to having a full schedule and not being able to contribute meaningfully to CCE at this time.
- I attended a retreat in Orlando that offered additional training for Clergy Peer Learning Group Facilitators. The retreat was sponsored by the Center for Family Care and funded by Leadership 100. I hope to share that training with the facilitators in our Metropolis. I also made a connection with a board member of Thriving in Ministry. TIM is the OCA’s Clergy Peer Learning Groups ministry. There seems to be interest in working together to expand these groups throughout the country.

Most of our efforts have stalled. There are several reasons why this is the case. My hope is that this ministry gets the attention and support it deserves, and we can move forward.

We are looking for ways to strengthen the relationship between this program and the Metropolis and get that attention and support.

We could also use help cultivating additional human resources to build out a ministry team. We do have interest from Fr. Nebojsa Pantic in joining the Team.

We also could use help raising funds as we pursue a Learning Management System, i.e. CCE portal.

Our Focus

- Developing.

Ministry Team & Funding

- Developing.





## Family Wellness Ministry

George Papageorge, LMFT, Director  
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 925 580-1771  
[www.familywellnessministry.org](http://www.familywellnessministry.org)

Presv. Pat Tsagalakis, Assistant Director  
[ptsagalakis@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:ptsagalakis@sanfran.goarch.org)  
 206 380-1862

### Metropolis of San Francisco Clergy Laity Report March 2024



#### Our Family Wellness Ministry Team:

- George Papageorge, L.M.F.T., Director
- Presv. Pat Tsagalakis, Assistant Director
- Fr. Tom Tsagalakis, M.Div., L.M.F.T.
- Fr. Jim Pappas, M.Div., and Presv. Donna Pappas
- Fr. Vasili Hillhouse, M.Div.
- Fr. Timothy Pavlatos, M.Div., M.F.T. & Presv. Victoria
- Presv. Michelle Triant • Joe Borgonia, L.M.F.T.

#### FAMILY WELLNESS MINISTRY

Please click on RED links to view videos, photos, or links (full access is available to all through our website)

### PARENTING WORKSHOPS and DEVELOPMENT of FWM PARENTING CURRICULUM

#### REAL LIFE – Parenting from the Heart

In 2023 our team focused on supporting parents and family life, launching our "Real Life -Parenting from the Heart" series. Understanding the challenges and joys of parenting, this initiative offers practical guidance and emotional support. Through workshops, resources, and videos created for parish ministry - we hope to walk side-by-side parents navigating through the journey of raising children with authenticity, compassion, faith, and love.

- May 11 **"Please Understand Me!"**~ connecting to the inner life of our kids  
**"REAL LIFE" – Parenting Tool Box**
- May 25 **"Game Changers"** ~ How insights from sports psychology can help us cultivate healthy spiritually and emotionally connected families  
**"Game Changers"** - Spiritual and Real Life" Insights for parents.
- July 17 **"Let Your Light Shine" Webinar**  
 Metropolis Stewardship Ministry with Mr. Steve Pappas
- Oct. 11 **"How Kids are Wired"** ~ parenting principles that cultivate empathy and healthy boundary setting
- Nov. 8 **"Raising Kids with Emotional Intelligence"** ~ Parenting styles that make a difference cultivate healthy spiritual and emotionally connected families
- Oct 20 **"Healing After Divorce"** with Joe Borgonia, M.F.T., Divorce Care team leader for FWM



### FAMILY WELLNESS MINISTRY PARTNERSHIP with CROSSROAD INSTITUTE

#### CROSSROAD COURSES FOR PARENTS:

Parenting Kids from the Inside Out - presented by George Papageorge

2023: **4 Part Parenting Course** (CrossRoad Ministry Outreach)

- July 18 **How Kids are Wired** - parenting principles that cultivate empathy and boundaries
- July 25 **The 'Battleground of the Mind'** – important insights into shame and worthiness issues
- Aug. 1 **Communication that Connects** – practical tools for the emotionally connected family
- Aug. 8 **Authentic Faith** – discussion on youth culture and spiritual formation

#### **CrossRoad for Students**

March 2-4 **Alumni Retreat Keynote Speaker**- Boston College - George Papageorge

July 5-8 **SUMMER BREAK RETREAT - Crossroad Summer institute:** Dominican University  
 Young Adult retreat with George Papageorge

2024: **April 4-7 Crossroad SPRING BREAK RETREAT** (Palm Beach Florida) with George Papageorge





## YOUNG ADULT OUTREACH

Our Family Wellness Ministry's commitment extends to the young adults within our Metropolis and beyond. Through our Young Adult outreach, we offer guidance and support as they navigate the complexities of relationships and personal wellness. By providing a safe space for exploration and connection, we hope to encourage young adults in faith, love and authenticity.



### AUTHENTICITY AND HEALTHY ATTACHMENT

JOIN OUR FAMILY WELLNESS MINISTRY TEAM FOR INSIGHTFUL FDF WORKSHOPS for YOUNG ADULTS and a second workshop for PARENTS. We will discuss topics of romance, friendship, sex and healthy boundaries.



**2023 Feb. 17 – 18 FDF Parenting Workshops**  
Fr Vasili Hillhouse, George Papageorge  
**FDF Family Arts & Crafts**  
Fr. James & Pres Donna Pappas

**Sept. 1-3 YAL Conference Workshops – OC**  
“Navigating Relationship Boundaries”  
with Fr. Tom and Pres Pat Tsagalakis

**Oct. 28-29 Young Adult Fall Retreat**  
Thanksgiving – living a Eucharist Life  
with Fr. Timothy Pavlatos, Phoenix, AZ

**2024 Feb. 16-19 FDF Workshops**  
for parents and young adults  
“RELATIONSHIPS: Authenticity and Healthy Attachment”- with Fr Vasili Hillhouse, Georg Papageorge and Pres. Victoria Pavlatos  
**FDF Family Arts & Crafts**  
Fr. James & Pres Donna Pappas

**July 3-7 National YAL Conference Workshops – San Diego, CA**



## RELATIONSHIPS / MARRIAGE 8 DATES ~ “Essential conversations for a lifetime of love”

Our Family Wellness Ministry's **8 DATES** program has reached over 600+ couples across the country. It is a balance of vibrant content, integration of our



Orthodox faith, and opportunity for small group discussion catered specifically to unique needs that couples face on a daily participating couples are given weekly exercises and questions to complete together for additional value outside the scheduled meetings. Ultimately, couples are equipped with resources necessary for stronger commitment to Christ and one another while expanding a community of supportive peers in the process.



**8 DATES PARISH EDITION** – is available for parish use. All resources, handouts and videos can be accessed on our website so that you can hold “8 Dates” meetings at church or in small groups at home. It's time to grow marriage ministry in your parish, and we guide you through it to make it vibrant and easy!

**We will be launching 8 DATES online for couples across the country FALL of 2024**

## OUR INVITATION TO FAMILY WELLNESS MINISTRY PARISH AMBASSADORS



JOIN US FOR  
Family Wellness Ministry Ambassadors Training  
MARCH / APRIL 2024



### OUR VISION FOR LOCAL PARISHES IN 2024:

#### FOR LAY LEADERS AND CLERGY:



• ENGAGE • EQUIP • EMPOWER



ESTABLISH AND/OR STRENGTHEN  
FAMILY MINISTRY IN YOUR PARISH

**FWM Ambassador Training March/ April 2024**

## MEN'S MINISTRY



Through intentional fellowship, mentorship, and shared experiences, **Men's Ministry** empowers men to navigate the complexities of life with resilience, integrity, and a sense of belonging with a Christ centered purpose. Our Family Wellness team is ready to help your parish start a Men's Ministry Fellowship.

**Men's Ministry** (Monthly / Annunciation, San Francisco) with George Papageorge  
Jan 26, Mar 23, Apr 27, May 1, Sept 7, Oct 19, Dec 7

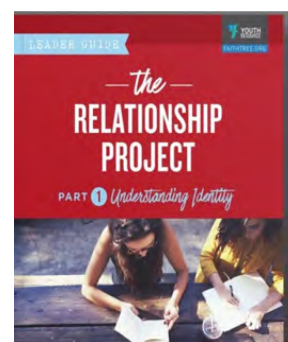
## OUTREACH TO SENIORS



Our commitment to the well-being of every generation includes dedicated resources for seniors. We offer a yearly retreat held at St. Nicholas Ranch under the direction of Fr. Jim Pappas who continues to lead our Senior outreach fostering a sense of belonging and purpose during their golden years.

## THE RELATIONSHIP PROJECT – Partnership with FaithTree

We continue to encourage priests, youth leaders and parents to engage with FaithTree's "Relationship Project" that our FWM Team purchased for each parish in the Metropolis of San Francisco. This is a wonderful program for teens and young adults which is easily implemented for small group ministry circles. If you need assistance logging on to your account or order workbooks please contact FAITHTREE 818.254.8391 / [info@faithtree.org](mailto:info@faithtree.org)



## DIVORCE CARE



When going through the pain of separation or divorce, people need a safe place where caring people come alongside you as you find healing. DivorceCare is a 13-week, video-based support group program, where you'll find helpful counsel to manage the emotional turmoil and practical tools for decision-making and moving forward in your life. Check out our latest video: **"Healing After Divorce"** with Joe Borgonia, M.F.T., Divorce Care team coordinator for FWM. For more information, please contact Joe Borgonia - [jbee9703@gmail.com](mailto:jbee9703@gmail.com)

## CLERGY CARE



With the encouragement of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, our team continues to expand initiatives for Clergy Care.

**Confidential Clergy Counseling Support:** Our FWM licensed Marriage and Family counselors will provide immediate confidential counseling and support for any of our clergy facing crisis or needing support. "YOUR MARRIAGE MATTERS" invites clergy couples to participate in 8 Dates with special clergy- focused breakout groups.

**PLAN TO ATTEND THE 2024 NATIONAL CLERGY COUPLES RETREAT** @ Stephen Christian Retreat and Conference Center in Titusville, FLORIDA as Center for Family Care and our Family Wellness Ministry team plan this retreat for Clergy Couples. (October 2024)

### Clergy / Presbyteres Mentorship Program

Our FWM team continues to partner with the Archdiocese Center for Family Care in supporting clergy through the 'Peer Group Mentoring Programs' for both priests and presbyteres.



## FAMILY WELLNESS RETREATS & FAMILY CAMPS

“Face to Face – Heart to Heart “ our team of retreat leaders continue to reach church communities sharing in variety of retreats and family camps throughout the nation.

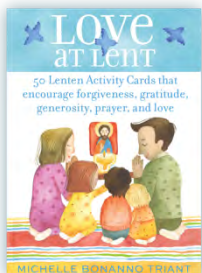


### FWM CAMPS & RETREATS 2023

- Feb 2-3** [\*\*FAMILY WELLNESS TEAM RETREAT\*\*](#) (San Diego 2023)
- Feb. 17-18** [\*\*LENTEN FAMILY RETREAT\*\*](#) (St. Spyridon / Loveland, CO) with George Papageorge
- March 18** [\*\*LENTEN RETREAT\*\*](#) (Annunciation Sacramento ) with George Papageorge
- Sept. 16-17** [\*\*FALL RETREAT The Body of Christ: Community & Resilience'\*\*](#)  
(Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox Mission in Salem, OR) with Fr. Timothy Pavlatos
- Sept 25- 29.** [\*\*FWM SENIOR RESORT CAMP\*\*](#) “A ROYAL ADVENTURE” @ St. Nicholas Ranch  
with Fr. Jim Pappas and Johanna Carter
- Sept 29-Oct 1** [\*\*FWM HOLY APOSTLES FAMILY CAMP\*\*](#) (All Saint Camp Pacific NW) – with Fr. Tom & Pres Pat Tsagalakis
- Oct 1-2** [\*\*2023 OCAMPER CONFERENCE\*\*](#) (Orthodox Christian Association of Medicine, Psychology and Religion)  
Clinical Training ~ attended by George Papageorge & Fr. Vasili Hillhouse “Sacred Hospitality: The Healing Encounter” at the University St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.
- Oct. 6-8** [\*\*ST. MARY’S FAMILY CAMP\*\*](#) (Minneapolis, MN) “The Power of our Story” - with Fr. Timothy Pavlatos
- Oct. 28-29** [\*\*YOUNG ADULT RETREAT\*\*](#) (Phoenix, AZ) Thanksgiving – living a Eucharist Life with Fr. Timothy Pavlatos

### UPCOMING RETREATS & WORKSHOPS 2024

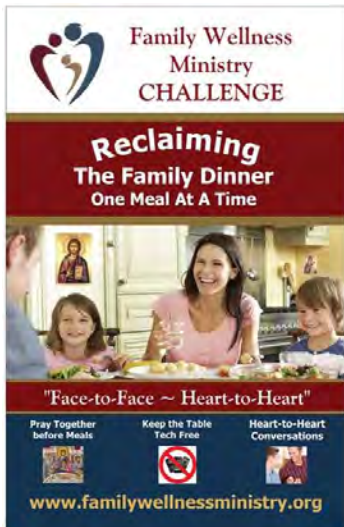
- Feb. 16-19** [\*\*FDF WORKSHOPS\*\*](#) for parents and young adults “BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS with Authenticity and Healthy Attachment”- with Fr Vasili Hillhouse, Georg Papageorge, Pres. Victoria Pavlatos  
[\*\*FDF ARTS & CRAFTS\*\*](#) for kids with Fr. Jim and Pres. Donna Pappas
- March 22-24** [\*\*FWM LENTEN FAMILY RETREAT\*\*](#) (St. Spyridon / Loveland, CO) with George Papageorge, Fr. Tom & Pres. Pat
- April 3** [\*\*FWM LENTEN RETREAT\*\*](#) (St. George-Fresno) “Cultivating Lifegiving Relationships” with Fr. Tom & Pres. Pat
- April 4-7** [\*\*CROSSROAD SPRING BREAK RETREAT\*\*](#) (Palm Beach Florida) with George Papageorge
- April 13** [\*\*LENTEN FAMILY RETREAT\*\*](#) (Annunciation -Sacramento, CA) with George Papageorge
- July 1-4** [\*\*NATIONAL CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY\*\*](#) (San Diego) FWM Presentations "Creating Vibrant Family Ministries"  
with George Papageorge and the FWM team
- July 4-7** [\*\*YAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE\*\*](#) (San Diego) FWM Workshops for young adults with the FWM team
- Sept 2024** [\*\*8 DATES WORKSHOPS\*\*](#) (virtual for couples) – (Sept. 2024-Feb. 2025) with our FWM team
- Sept 13-14** [\*\*FWM FAMILY CAMP\*\*](#) (All Saints Camp – Pacific NW) with Fr. Tom & Pres Pat Tsagalakis
- FALL 2024** [\*\*FWM SENIOR RESORT CAMP\*\*](#) @ St. Nicholas Ranch with Fr. Jim Pappas and Johanna Carter
- Oct 2024** [\*\*NATIONAL CLERGY COUPLES RETREAT\*\*](#) @ Stephen Christian Retreat and Conference Center in Titusville, FL



### LOVE AT LENT

Created by Family Wellness Ministry team leader **Presvytera Michelle Triant** “LOVE AT LENT” engages children with fifty tasks for the forty days of Lent plus Holy Week, as well as three Lenten prayer cards. Choose a task card each day and complete it as a family. [\*\*LOVE AT LENT\*\*](#) is a wonderful resource for families to grow in faith and love!

## RECLAIMING THE FAMILY DINNER



### Fostering Family Connections:

We are dedicated to strengthening the bonds that tie families together. Under our "Family Focus" initiative, we launched the "Family Dinner Project", a program designed to bring families closer through shared meals. Recognizing the importance of quality time spent together, this initiative encourages families to gather around the dinner table, fostering connection and communication. Please visit our website to download family dinner interactive questions to share around the table.

## GRIEF SHARE AND SUPPORT

While everyone's response to loss is unique, people facing loss and grief will experience many of the same challenges. The Grief Support Groups provides valuable tips, encouragement, and direction for those struggling with loss. Currently, Holy Apostles (Shoreline, WA) and St. George (Downey, CA) are providing Grief Support ministries. If you are interested in learning more about GriefShare and it's powerful impact, resources are available.



## SOCIAL MEDIA

Please "like" us on Facebook. Watch out for our "GOT WELLNESS?" campaign as our Family Wellness Ministry team shares interesting videos and posts on Facebook and Instagram throughout 2024.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTORS



The parable of the Good Samaritan reminds us that the Church exists to continue the healing touch of Christ. His compassion is what inspires our ministry.

Family Wellness Ministry is intentional to meet people where they are. We offer Christ-centered resources and practical tools to strengthen families that cultivates spiritual and emotional health. With God's help, we will support the local parish to establish robust family ministries.

Christ's light shines through authentic healthy relationships and families- We are here to support this cause! We are blessed to serve the Church and to do so with a joyful and talented team!

Respectfully submitted,

**George Papageorge L.M.F.T.**  
Metropolis of San Francisco  
Family Wellness Ministry, Director  
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist - Pleasanton CA  
Professor of Family Therapy - Santa Clara University

**Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis**  
Metropolis of San Francisco  
Family Wellness Ministry, Assistant Director



Please visit our website: [www.familywellnessministry.org](http://www.familywellnessministry.org)



**"REAL LIFE"**  
Parenting from  
the Heart



**8 DATES**  
Essential  
Conversations  
for a lifetime of love



**FAMILY DINNER**  
Questions







# FDF 2024

## Report

**Prepared For:**  
**Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco**  
**Metropolis Council & Clergy Laity**  
**March 2024**



### **FDF 2024 Overview:**

Dance To Life! A theme from the first time FDF took place in Anaheim, CA, nearly 40 years ago. It expresses being able to live and celebrate the things that make us happy, to the fullest. At this year's FDF, we came together to rejoice in our faith, honor our traditions, and cherish our family and community.

FDF 2024 experienced record attendance with over 5000 people in attendance during the weekend event, provided \$26,000 in scholarships, and raised \$10,000 for GOAA ministries.

## Highlights:

### Registration:

- Participants came from **28** US states and **32** parishes (and Greece, Bulgaria, and the UAE)!
- **5,000+** participants throughout the whole weekend!
- Almost **3,000** pre-registered participants, including 526 who attended FDF for the first time!
  - **256** pre-registered participants under 8 years old
  - **928** pre-registered participants between 9-17 years old
  - **1,805** pre-registered participants over 18 years old



### Competition:

- **104 Total Groups** from Eight States (AZ, CA, HI, NV, NY, OR, UT & WA)
  - **78** Dance (Division I & II)      – **18** Division III Exhibition
  - **7** Choral                              – **1** Division IV Non-Competing Exhibition

### Judge Panel:

- **16 Dance Judges** (3 from Greece & 1 judging at FDF for the first time) + **4 Costume Judges**
- **2 New Choral Judges** with long & distinguished resumes ([Erini Tornosaki](#) & [Nektarios Antoniou](#)).  
We look forward working together to rebuild Choral participation to exceed pre-COVID levels.

### Live Stream:

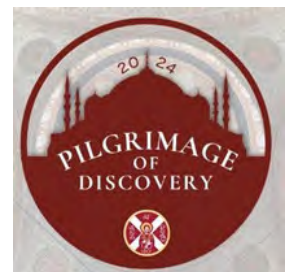
The FDF Live channel and viewership continues to grow year over year, broadcasting and connecting those not able to physically attend FDF. Our target audience is everyone around the world who wants to experience our Greek Heritage and Culture through this ministry that we all know and love.

- **FDF 2024 Weekend:** 376,305 Minutes / 25,638 Views / 23 Events / 1,014 Awards Viewers
- **Since Inception in 2017:** 3,855 Subscribers / 4.7M Minutes / 505,341 Views (**24% YOY Growth**)
- **International Reach:** Greece, Canada, Mexico, UK, Germany, Estonia, Bulgaria, Australia & India

### Ministry Collaboration:

FDF has provided a platform for ministries of our Church to advance their mission. This year the following programs were introduced to FDF participants:

- Archons of the Ecumenical Patriarchate: [Pilgrimage of Discovery](#)
  - Our Metropolis of San Francisco Archons presented two workshops introducing The Pilgrimage of Discovery.
  - The Pilgrimage of Discovery is an annual, 7-day, all-expense paid, religious and cultural journey to Constantinople awarded to young adults across the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, connecting them with their ancestral religious roots.
- [Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America Youth Safety](#)
  - All Clergy who serve a parish and all lay people who have a position/role working with Children or Youth are required to complete a three step process: register–screen–train.
  - California's Assembly Bill 506 (AB506) became law on September 16, 2021 and went into effect on January 1, 2022. This new law sets new requirements for youth serving organizations in three areas: screening, training, and policies.
  - A LIVE SCAN agency was incorporated into the exhibitor space with the Archdiocese Director of Youth Protection to assist California Youth Workers meet this requirement.
  - We are pleased to announce that **FDF achieved 100% compliance** for this year's event!



- **Opening Ceremony Speaker: [Leon Logothetis](#)**

- This TV host, motivational speaker, and bestselling author found humanity's essence and the bonds connecting people worldwide. Through kindness, he found that comparing similarities rather than differences creates a brighter future.
- This shines through in his hit TV show "The Kindness Diaries."
- [Watch it](#) on Discovery Plus, Amazon Prime Video and more.



- **Diakonia:**

- The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos and the FDF Management Team partnered with [Outback Team Building & Training](#) to build, decorate, and present 25 bikes to support the [Boys & Girls Clubs of America](#).
- This Diakonia project encouraged teamwork, creativity, and collaboration amongst all our participants.



- **Night Events:**

- Friday: Glendi
  - The traditional Glendi took place featuring regional musicians from all over Greece.
  - Participants enjoyed dancing and singing to a variety of live music from various regions and different musicians.
- Saturday: Concert & Glendi
  - Konstantinos Koufos, Evangelia, and DJ Krazy Kon performed live Saturday night.
  - The event catered to participants of all ages with a very large turnout and positive feedback from both children and parents.
- Sunday: Awards Ceremony & Glendi
  - With record attendance, the Awards Ceremony was so large that it took place in both ballrooms! Each room was set up in the same way, complete with its own co-host live on stage (George Papangellin in one room, and Aris Yortzidis in the other), and a live camera feed with synced audio on all four large projection screens.
  - All winning groups and awardees are posted online at [www.yourfdf.org/event/fdf-2024/](http://www.yourfdf.org/event/fdf-2024/)
  - Participants then danced the night away to traditional folk music performed by regional musicians from all over Greece.



## • Workshops:

- New workshops were added this year that focused two important age ranges:
  - “Kalimera Kids Dance Party”, for the Pre-Division III age group.
  - “Career Path Panel”, for young professionals interested in college majors, internships, and future careers.
- The complete Workshop lineup included 15 inspiring, interactive, and powerful workshops that took place throughout the weekend and focused on all ages including parents.
- The career panel featured leaders from Microsoft, Lockheed Martin, Starbucks, Kaiser Permanente, and Gibson Dunn law firm.



## FDF 2024 WORKSHOPS

<b>Pre - DIII</b> Kalimera Kids Dance Party Friday & Saturday: 9 am	<b>DIII &amp; Primary</b> Arts & Crafts Fr. Jim Pappas & Team Friday: 1 - 4 pm Saturday: 11 am - 2 pm	<b>Adv Primary</b> Kindness Beats: Oli Mazi Music Video Maria Vasilou Friday: 4 pm Saturday: 4 pm
<b>Junior &amp; Adv Junior</b> Masterclass: Zoihekiko & Tsamiko Friday (Adv Junior): 10 am Saturday (Junior): 1 pm	<b>Junior &amp; Adv Junior</b> In God's Image Fr. Niko Bekris Friday (Junior): 12 pm Saturday (Adv Junior): 2 pm	<b>Intermediate &amp; Adv Intermediate</b> Transformative Paths Dr. Bruce Beck Friday (Adv Intermediate): 4 pm Saturday (Intermediate): 2 pm
<b>Intermediate &amp; Adv Intermediate</b> Finding Your Potential Fr. Michael Prevas Friday (Adv Intermediate): 2 pm Saturday (Intermediate): 12 pm	<b>Intermediate &amp; Adv Intermediate</b> Music in Our Lives, Music in the Church Fr. John Kocolas Friday (Intermediate): 3 pm Saturday (Adv Intermediate): 3 pm	<b>Adv Intermediate &amp; Senior</b> Greece: A Remarkable Economic Recovery and its Role as a Stable Regional Pillar Dr. Leonidas Tzonis Friday (Senior): 1 pm Saturday (Adv Intermediate): 4 pm
<b>Senior &amp; Adv Senior</b> Pilgrimage of Discovery in Our Faith Archons Friday (Senior): 11 am Saturday (Adv Senior): 3 pm	<b>Senior &amp; Adv Senior</b> Stillness: Hearing the Voice of God in a World of Noise Fr. Photios Dumont Friday (Adv Senior): 11 am Saturday (Senior): 1 pm	<b>Senior &amp; Adv Senior</b> Byzantine Iconography and Architecture Fr. Michael Courcy Friday (Senior): 12 pm Saturday (Adv Senior): 1 pm
<b>Adv Senior</b> Authenticity and Healthy Attachment Family Wellness Ministry Saturday: 11 am	<b>Parent</b> Authenticity and Healthy Attachment Family Wellness Ministry Friday: 2 pm	<b>All Ages</b> Career Paths Panel Saturday 6 - 7 pm

<b>Legal</b>  	<b>Theane Evangelis</b> Partner and co-chair of Gibon Dunn's Global Litigation Practice Group Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
<b>Technology</b>  	<b>Peter Kyriacou</b> Corporate Vice President Microsoft
<b>Aerospace/Engineering</b>  	<b>Polyvios Mantas</b> Project Engineer Manager Lockheed Martin
<b>Food Safety/ Public Health</b>  	<b>Bessie Politis, R.E.H.S.</b> Senior Manager Retail Food Safety Licensed Stores Starbucks Coffee Company
<b>Healthcare</b>  	<b>Anastacia Zoumberakis</b> Genetic Counselor/Genetics Supervisor Kaiser Permanente Southern California

We thank everyone for the support and assistance in making FDF 2024 one of the best ever!  
 Planning has already begun for another great event in 2025!





# CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

MARCH 4-5, 2024



**Ministry/Committee:** Greek Language and Culture  
**Leader:** Katerina Chiotis  
**E-mail:** [chiotiskaterina@gmail.com](mailto:chiotiskaterina@gmail.com)  
**Cell:** 650-868-0728

In September 2023, it was a blessing for me to be asked by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos to lead the Metropolis Greek Language and Culture Ministry. This ministry was led by Katerina Iconomou for the previous several years. I am honored to serve the Metropolis in this role and to assist our Greek Schools. The purpose of this ministry is to be a resource to our Greek School Directors, Teachers and Schools throughout the Metropolis, and to create Greek cultural educational opportunities for our faithful of all ages.



# CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

MARCH 4-5, 2024



**Ministry / Committee:** Greek Language and Culture  
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**E-mail:** [chiotiskaterina@gmail.com](mailto:chiotiskaterina@gmail.com)  
**Cell:** 650-868-0728

I have been the Director of the Holy Cross Greek School in Belmont, CA since 2017 and a Greek School Teacher for 30 years. I love sharing teaching ideas and practices with other teachers. I very much look forward to assisting the Metropolis with increasing communication between our Greek Schools, facilitating the sharing of best practices among our schools, as well as developing cultural programs. I am also an active member of American Association of Teachers of Modern Greek Studies (AATMG), which is an excellent resource for our schools.





# CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

MARCH 4-5, 2024



## Main activities / events completed from September 2023 to present

- **Updated contact list** of Greek Schools and Directors in the Metropolis.
- **Note:** There are currently over 25 Greek Schools in the Metropolis of San Francisco.
- **Getting acquainted** with the many Greek School Directors, Teachers and Schools throughout the Metropolis. Develop a mentoring program.
- **I am in the process** of updating the Greek Language and Culture website to be a practical resource for all Greek Schools.
- **Invited Directors and Teachers** to participate in an American Association of Teachers of Modern Greek Studies (AATMG) teacher training seminar, where Dr. Eva Prionas offered several teaching techniques.
- **Three Hierarchs Feast Day Celebration** – Collection of Greek School projects to be assembled into a collaborative digital book to be shared with all Greek Schools via website



# CLERGY LAITY ASSEMBLY

MARCH 4-5, 2024



## Upcoming activities / events in 2024

- **Greek Independence Day Celebration** –  
Event at Church of the Holy Cross,  
Belmont, CA. Collaboration with United  
Hellenic American Society (UHAS) for  
another event in Union Square, San  
Francisco.
- **June** – Graduation and end of year  
celebration at Holy Cross Greek School.







## **Report**

### **Clergy Laity Assembly March 4-5, 2024**

**Ministry:** Greek Village Immersion Program  
**Leaders:** Fr. Christos Kalaitzis and Pres. Theodora Nakou  
**E-mails:** [greekvillagesf@gmail.com](mailto:greekvillagesf@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [www.ourgreekvillage.org](http://www.ourgreekvillage.org)

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In September 2023, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos asked us to lead the Metropolis Greek Village Summer Camp. As native Greek speakers, and Greek language and culture educators, it is our privilege to do so. With the full support of the Metropolis, a very good cooperation with a few individuals, and after a very successful recruiting campaign at FDF, we are very excited about this year's program and the future of Greek Village.

We very much appreciate the hard work that Katerina Iconomou and Georgia Covell put into Greek Village for the previous several years as the Camp Directors, and we look forward to building on their success, with the support of Bettina Kallins and her family, one of the founding families of Greek Village.

- The year 2019 was the last year Greek Village took place at the Ranch in its original form, with campers, counselors, Greek teachers, and at the Ranch for a week program.
- In 2020 and 2021 the programs were held online. In 2022, Greek Village was held in family camp style at the Ranch for 4 nights. In 2023, Greek Village did not take place.
- In 2024, Greek Village will take place at the Ranch between June 16-22, in its original form with campers from throughout the Metropolis.

#### **Main activities / events completed from September 2023 to present.**

- A new Greek Village working committee has been established.
- The previous weeklong program is being reviewed and updated.
- A new website is online and will be improved with time.
- A new email address has been created.
- A flyer has been created.
- The registration platform has been updated and is open.
- Staff applications have been updated and are available.
- Current Archdiocese Youth Safety Policies are being adopted.
- A Greek Village Reunion Dinner was organized by Bettina and George Kallins at FDF.
- A Greek Village booth was organized at FDF to promote the re-organization of the camp.
- There was a tremendous amount of interest in Greek Village at FDF.
- We collected many names of individuals that are interested in Greek Village, either as campers, staff, or teaching staff.

#### **Upcoming activities / events in 2024.**

- Focus will now be on improving the website and social media, receiving camper registrations, receiving counselor applications, hiring, and training counselors, hiring and training of teachers, working out details of program, creating the curriculum, performing fundraising.
- Attention will be given to adhering to the proposed budget.
- Fr.Christos will visit as many parishes as possible to promote GV

#### **Additional Comments:**

- The GV program has been successful in the past and carries many potentials to become more successful.
- Through a focused outreach the Metropolis and affiliated individuals with leverage, the GV can be successfully promoted and broadly known to the Greek parishes, Greek communities and to the friends of the Greek spirit.
- Recruiting teachers who are highly educated and experienced professionals - not only native speakers - will raise the academic standards of the program.
- The mission of the GV is a week of full immersion to the Greek Heritage through language, culture, history, arts, theater, music, games and workshops addressed to Greek families. It also needs to be inclusive of American philhellene families.
- The vision for the GV is to transmit the Greek Heritage to the members of the Greek communities, and more than that, beyond its borders. The future goal is to see the program expanding the following years and host more than one period during the summer, according to the campers' age , and potentially a winter period for adults.
- Based on the success of the Greek School Portland, and the experience of the deep need of many Greek and American families for the Greek culture, we count on the members of the Metropolis Council and their love and faith to the Greek Heritage and identity, and we believe that this program can thrive in the short and long term.



Greek Village Staff and Counselor Reunion at FDF 2024!





METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

Language ♦ Culture ♦ History ♦ Music ♦ Dancing ♦ Cooking ♦ Traditions

# GREEK VILLAGE *Summer Camp*

**June 16-22, 2024**

**Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center**  
*Dunlap, California*

**Experience the Richness of the Greek Heritage,  
and the Fun of Summer Camp!**  
For campers, ages 8–17

**For information, contact the Camp Directors:**  
*Fr. Christos Kalaitzis and*  
*Presvytera Theodora Nakou*

**Christos Papademos, Program Director**  
**Counselors needed, ages 18 and up!**  
Contact [christo.papademos@annunciation.org](mailto:christo.papademos@annunciation.org)



[www.ourgreekvillage.org](http://www.ourgreekvillage.org) | [greekvillagesf@gmail.com](mailto:greekvillagesf@gmail.com)

## Missions and Evangelism Ministry Report

Submitted by Co-Consultants Kenny Scott and Fr. Jerry Markopoulos on February 1st, 2024

[kscott@groworthodoxy.org](mailto:kscott@groworthodoxy.org)\*\*\*[frgerasimos@sntgrg.org](mailto:frgerasimos@sntgrg.org)

[Kenny-520.233.8853](tel:Kenny-520.233.8853)\*\*\*[Fr. Jerry-541.852.0143](tel:Fr. Jerry-541.852.0143)

[www.GrowOrthodoxy.org](http://www.GrowOrthodoxy.org)

### MEM Team

- Metropolitan Gerasimos, Board President
- His Grace Bishop Ioannis
- Fr. Andrew Barakos, Assumption, Scottsdale, Arizona
- Fr. Anthony Cornett, St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral, Los Angeles, California
- Fr. Photios Dumont, St. Demetrios, Seattle, Washington
- Fr. Gerasimos Markopoulos, St. George Greek Orthodox Church, Eugene, Oregon
- Cliff Argue, St. Demetrios, Seattle, Washington
- Connie Contes, Holy Trinity Cathedral, Phoenix, Arizona
- Kenny Scott, St George Orthodox Church, Prescott, Arizona

### Our Mission

To aid in and develop an Orthodox practice of evangelism and mission by opening doors, preparing soil, and casting nets for our parishes and their parishioners.

### Our Focus (Five E's)

- *Educate our priests and parishes on the current reality of the American mission field*
  - To continually be in a place of humble learning and passing on that information to our priests and parishes, both positive and negative.
- *Equip our priests and parishes with resources for evangelism and catechism*
  - Discerning the evangelical/missional needs of our parishes and providing practical resources to meet those needs, such as, potentially, liturgy guides, welcoming/greeting classes, online catechism courses, etc.
- *Engage our priests and parishioners via workshops and conferences*
  - Providing in-person and online workshops/conferences to learn about evangelism and mission as well as meeting like-minded individuals.
- *Evolve our current missions into self-sustaining parishes*
  - Giving resources and time in the cultivation of our mission parishes so they never feel that they are alone.
- *Establish both the formation of new missions and new priests*
  - Developing practical ways to establish new missions as well as provide priests for those missions.



## **Guiding Scripture**

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

– Matthew 28:19-20

## **Milestones/Events**

- Updated website
- Booth at FDF
- Started the MEM Community (Details below)
  - Started meeting every two months with our mission parishes
  - Started quarterly discussions about evangelism with our Vicariate small groups
  - Started quarterly presentations on evangelism
- Relaunched our bi-annual Missions & Evangelism conference
- January 28th, the first liturgy was served for the Central Oregon mission by Fr. Jason Roll

## **Upcoming**

- Strengthening our MEM community
- Developing a convert survey for our Metropolis
- Initiating an “Evangelism Season” for our Metropolis
- Preparing for the next evangelism conference

## **What is an Evangelism Season?**

The "Evangelism Season" spans from Pentecost to the beginning of the Nativity Fast, during which we encourage our parishes to extend their focus to the local communities. While engaging with our communities is encouraged year-round, this period is designated for intensified efforts.

On March 11th, there will be a presentation detailing the implementation of the Evangelism Season in your parishes, open to everyone; membership in MEM is not required for attendance.

This presentation will cover strategies for sharing the faith within local communities, methods to nurture growth and confidence in personal faith-sharing, and ways to imbue all these activities with the prayers of the Orthodox Church. Additionally, resources for download and print, as well as social media imagery, will be provided to accommodate the unique needs of your parish.

We invite you to join us and explore how to weave the Evangelism Season into the fabric of your parish's life.

## What is the MEM Community?

The MEM (Missions and Evangelism) Community is made up of clergy and laity who have a desire to spread the faith in their local communities.

Members of the community gather with other like-minded people a few times each year to discuss all things evangelism. We believe that the first step in our Metropolis having a focus on evangelism is for our people to come together and simply talk about it.

*"With all my talk about mission, I was regarded at first as very romantic, but gradually people began to understand that a Church is not apostolic if it is not involved in mission activity. Apostolic means to be like the apostles, every one of whom was a missionary."*

### - Archbishop Anastasios of Albania

Our hope is that through these discussions, we too, would be "romantic" about evangelism. That this romanticism would seep into our hearts, overflowing into the hearts of those at our home parishes.

## We need your help!

The following table is a list of all the parishes in our Metropolis that do or do not have parishioners who are members of the MEM community. Please consider joining the community and representing your parish. If you, or someone you know, may be interested in joining the MEM community, they can sign up at [groworthodoxy/join/](http://groworthodoxy/join/).

Vicariate	Has Representation	Needs Representation
Bay Area	Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church	Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Cross
	Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church	Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
	Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension	Nativity Of Christ Greek Orthodox Christian Church
	Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church	Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral
	Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church	Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
		Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church
		Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
		Saints Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Pacific
Eastern CA	Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church	Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
	Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Christian Church	Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
		Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
Los Angeles	Saint Paul Greek Orthodox Church	Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
	Greek Orthodox Mission of Maui	Saint Nectarios Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
		Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

		Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Cathedral
		Saint Anthony Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Basil Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
<b>Northern LA</b>	Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church	Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
	Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church	Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Andrew Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Barbara Greek Orthodox Church
<b>Oregon</b>	Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church	Holy Trinity Cathedral
	Saint George Greek Orthodox Church	
	Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Mission Church	
	Holy Resurrection Greek Orthodox (Mission) Church	
	Greek Orthodox Mission Church of Central Oregon	
<b>San Diego</b>		Saints Constantine and Helen Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Gregory of Nyssa Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint George Greek Orthodox Church
		Prophet Elias Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
<b>Southwest</b>	Saint Katherine Greek Orthodox Church	Greek Orthodox Mission Church of Coolidge and Florence Arizona
	Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Mission Church	Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
	Greek Orthodox Mission Church of Lake Havasu City	Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
	Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church	Saint John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church
	Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral	
	Saint George Greek Orthodox Church of Prescott	
<b>Washington</b>	Saint Nectarios Greek Orthodox Mission	Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
		Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
		Holy Apostles Greek Orthodox Church
		Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
		Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church





# Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco



“Supporting Parish Health, Growth and Revitalization”

Key Offerings: Strategic Planning, Leadership Development,  
Parish Revitalization, and Capital Campaigns

## Ministry Update

2.23.24

### 1. Ministry Effectiveness

1. Developed “5 P” planning / report tool for all Metropolis Ministries. Currently being piloted at St. George, Prescott, AZ

### 2. Parish Support - Currently supporting the following parishes:

1. Assumption, Seattle. Designed and delivered Parish Leadership Retreat on February 10, 2024.
2. Resurrection, Castro Valley. Delivered Capital Campaign Feasibility Study and Campaign Report to Parish Leadership.
3. St. Demetrios, Concord. Designed and Delivered Parish Leadership Retreat scheduled on January 26 & 27, 2024.
4. St. Paul, Irvine. Completed parish Strategic Plan, mid-October, 2023.
5. Annunciation, Modesto. Provided Stewardship workshop to newly formed Stewardship Committee.
6. St. John, Anaheim. Beginning stages of discussion to support Parish Strategic Plan development.
7. St. Demetrios, Tucson. Delivered prototype of Metropolis “Regional Townhall” (aka “Roadshow”) over the weekend of November 10 & 11.
8. St. Demetrios, Tucson. Working with Capital Campaign committee on plans for initial phase of development at new site.
9. Annunciation, Wauwatosa, WI. Launched Parish Strategic Plan development program on November 3 & 4.
10. St. Demetrios, Camarillo. Supported parish in designing parish wide survey.



# Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco



“Supporting Parish Health, Growth and Revitalization”

Key Offerings: Strategic Planning, Leadership Development,  
Parish Revitalization, and Capital Campaigns

## Ministry Update

2.13.24

### 3. Continuous Improvement

1. Formed OPL Network, repositioning and redefining offerings and building a delivery team.

## Orthodox Parish Leadership Core Offerings & Team

Steve Pappas  
Health & Revitalization

Dimi Sakelarios  
Strategic Planning

Kristina Mehas  
Stewardship

Steve Tibbs  
Leadership Development



Dedicated to  
Supporting Parish  
Health, Growth  
and Revitalization

Melpomeni Murdakes  
GOA, Director of Parish  
Planned Giving

Peter Panagis  
5P Ministry Effectiveness

George Ekizian  
Welcome Teams &  
Engagement

Jim Eckstaedt  
Parish Financial Management

Steve Tibbs  
Capital Campaign

Steve Tibbs  
“2X2” Program





# Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco



“Supporting Parish Health, Growth and Revitalization”

Key Offerings: Strategic Planning, Leadership Development,  
Parish Revitalization, and Capital Campaigns

## Ministry Update

2.13.24

### 3. Continuous Improvement

1. Formed OPL Network, repositioning and redefining offerings and building a delivery team.

## Orthodox Parish Leadership Advisory Team

Fr. Cosmas Halekakis  
Advisory Focus  
“2x2” Program

Fr. Jim Kordaris  
GOAD Director  
Stewardship, Missions &  
Evangelism

Fr. Jerry Markopoulos  
Ministry Lead  
Metropolis of San Francisco  
Clergy Continuing Education

Fr. Angelo Maginas  
Advisory Focus  
“Leadership Development”



Nick Chakos  
Executive Director  
Orthodox Ministry Services

Kenny Scott  
Ministry Co-Lead  
Metropolis of San Francisco  
Missions & Evangelism

Dr. Eve Tibbs  
Ministry Lead  
Metropolis of San Francisco  
Christian Education  
Ministry

Paul Gikas  
Metropolis of San Francisco  
Director  
Administration & Ministries





# Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry

“Supporting Parish Health, Growth and Revitalization”



## PARISH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

### “2 x 2” PROGRAM OVERVIEW

“Calling the Twelve to him, Jesus began to send them out two by two...” Mark 6:7

*Jesus sent out His disciples in pairs, demonstrating the power and impact of shared ministry. By doing so, Jesus foreshadowed the need for unity and common purpose essential for fostering healthy, Spirit-filled work in all Parish endeavors.*

#### Purpose of OPL

The purpose of the Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry is to support a parish's efforts in bringing people to Christ and fostering their connection with His Church.

We will do this by offering consulting support, materials, tools and best practices intended to enhance the parish's Health, Growth, and Revitalization.

The aim of OPL is to deliver “easy-to-use tools in an-easy-to-get” manner for our parishes.

#### 2x2 Pilot Program

##### Purpose

To improve the awareness and abilities of two representatives from each of the 12 pilot parishes within the Metropolis of San Francisco in all aspects of the OPL ministry.

##### Plan

1. The pilot phase of the 2x2 program will run from June 2024 to February 2025.
2. There will be no charges for a parish to participate.
3. April 1. Identify 12 parishes, and 2 participants per parish (2 Laity or 1 Clergy & 1 Laity).
4. June. Conduct initial Zoom Orientation for all 24 2x2 members with introductions and an overview of the OPL offerings and tools available for use.
5. Monthly. 90 minute Zoom call offering a deeper look at one core OPL offering each month; provide feedback and share experiences and ideas.

##### People

##### Team Member Role & Responsibilities

- The overall goal is to develop local parish awareness and skills of all OPL offerings, tools, and programs.
- The participants will become an extension of the OPL ministry team and will be an OPL connection to their respective parishes.
- In essence, they will also be the parish's “subject matter expert” regarding where to locate resources and request support from the core OPL team.
- They will also provide feedback to the core OPL on what works, what doesn't, and considerations for future needs.
- Attend the Monthly Zoom training and update call.
- Ask questions, share your discoveries and offer your feedback and ideas.



# PHILOPTOCHOS

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

## Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly Contemplate. Reconcile. Unify.

March 4-5, 2024

### Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos President's Report

*For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in Him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross."*

*Colossians 1:10-20*

Your Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, Your Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, Your Grace Bishop Ioannis, Metropolis Council Vice-President Isidoros Garifalakis, Metropolis Council, Rev. Fathers and Presvyteres, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is my honor to greet you on behalf of the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board today as we gather for the 2024 Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly. Our mission, deeply rooted in the principles of love, compassion, and service, remains steadfast and unwavering. I remain grateful to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos for his spiritual guidance and blessing in support of our many endeavors to make a difference in the lives of others.

The **47th Annual Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Folk Dance and Choral Festival** was held February 16-19, 2024 in Anaheim, California. FDF and the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Diakonia Project supported the Boys and Girls Club in the local area by building and decorating children's bikes and helmets for underprivileged children. In honor of His Eminence

Archbishop Elpidophoros, we presented a donation of \$5,000 to support the Archdiocesan Youth Summer Camp Scholarship Fund. The Metropolis Philoptochos also hosted the Clergy Family Brunch on Sunday following the Divine Liturgy.



**Our Camp Agape Ministry** hosted 2 reunion events. On January 27<sup>th</sup> the Arizona chapters hosted a Camp Agape Reunion celebration at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix. We entertained 18 families along with Camp Agape volunteers and donors. Our theme was Giddy Up for Camp Agape and included line dancing, a fabulous dinner and had a surprise visit from all the Disney Princesses. On December 18<sup>th</sup> Saint Spyridon Philoptochos of San Diego and the Metropolis Philoptochos hosted a Christmas party for the cancer children and their families. A delicious dinner was served, we sang Christmas Carols and there was a visit from Santa.

**Metropolis Philoptochos Oath of Office and Board Elections-** The Metropolis Philoptochos Board met in person on January 23<sup>rd</sup> in San Francisco. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos administered the Oath of Office and the Executive Board was elected. The 2023-2025 Executive Board are Jeannie Ranglas, President; Cynthia Kezos, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President; Katherine Connell, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President; Christine Psfteas, Treasurer; Vickie Demos, Asst. Treasurer; Mary Peros, Recording Secretary; Genie Kontos, Asst. Treasurer; and Valerie Roumeliotes, Advisor.



The ***Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund*** has been a vital source of support for our seminarians and students. In the past 16 years we have offered over \$1.5 million in financial assistance. Each year, our Light the Path Christmas Luncheon brings together our clergy and faithful for an afternoon of Christmas cheer – complete with beautiful decorations and the sights and sounds of Christmas. Light the Path was held on Sunday, November 19, 2023 at The Olympic Club in San Francisco. We raised over \$175,000 to support the seminarians and students of the Metropolis of San Francisco at Hellenic College and Holy Cross School of Theology.



***Metropolis of San Francisco Gala*** celebrated our ministries and honored the extraordinary leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos on Saturday, October 28, 2023. We celebrated 100 years of ministry on the West Coast. The Metropolis Philoptochos played an active role in the celebration.

For the fourth consecutive in-person conference, the Metropolis Philoptochos has partnered with the ***Young Adult League Conference (YAL)*** over Labor Day weekend 2023 for the annual Diakonia project. This year we sponsored a backpack project with school supplies for the Illumination Foundation which provides healthcare, housing and additional services to vulnerable children and families in Orange County. We donated \$10,000 for this worthy cause.



In May 2023, seven members of the Metropolis Philoptochos Board traveled to Brookline, Massachusetts to participate in the ***Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology*** commencement festivities for our students. During our time on campus, we presented a check for over \$140,000 to support the seminarians and students from our Metropolis. It is always uplifting to visit “The Holy Hill” and to share in fellowship with these wonderful men and women who are pursuing higher education at Hellenic College Holy Cross and encourage them as they pursue service to our Church.

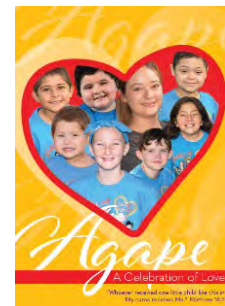


***A Kids 'N' Cancer Ministry, Camp Agape.*** The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer – Camp Agape Ministry is dedicated to providing support for children afflicted with cancer and their families. This beloved ministry offers a compassionate and caring environment, exemplary of Christ's unconditional love, along with an opportunity to shape meaningful friendships and create precious memories. Camp Agape navigates the



journey for these families with courage, compassion and unwavering support. The Metropolis Philoptochos oversees four Camp Agape programs throughout the Metropolis - San Diego, Dunlap (St. Nicholas Ranch), Arizona, and Portland. We are looking towards the summer of 2024.

Please join us for our Kids 'n' Cancer Agape – A Celebration of Love on Sunday, April 14, 2024 at the Newport Beach Country Club. Visit [sfphiloptochos.org](http://sfphiloptochos.org) for more information.



The ***Social Services Ministry*** embodies the spirit of Philoptochos by assisting those in need of caring, kindness and compassion. The need for such a ministry is paramount to our mission as Philoptochos women touch others both financially and spiritually in a manner which provides hope and preserves dignity. Our mission is to assist those locally, throughout our Metropolis, and on a National level, who are encountering crisis or in a position that is less fortunate. The continuation of such a ministry is essential to achieving our goal. This need was pronounced during the COVID pandemic and we remain vigilant in helping now more than ever in touching hearts.... and changing lives.

The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos continues to support the ***Ecumenical Patriarchate*** in humble prayer and we have offered over \$15,000 this year to help further the growth of our church by spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ. The philanthropies of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, such as Balukli Hospital and nursing home, schools, shrines, and parishes are supported through this commitment.

***2024 Biennial Clergy-Laity Congress and National Philoptochos Convention*** - We are delighted and honored to host the Clergy-Laity Congress and the National Philoptochos Convention in San Diego, CA from June 30 – July 4, 2024. We look forward to sharing our West Coast hospitality and are eager for your enthusiastic participation. We plan to collaborate with YAL on a Diakonia project.



Thank you for the opportunity to serve this beloved Metropolis of San Francisco. I, and the thousands of women represented through our Philoptochos Chapters, are thankful for your support and love, and most of all, your prayers as we continue our good works in Christ.

*"In the spirit of unwavering commitment and boundless compassion, may the good works of Philoptochos continue to illuminate the path of service, embodying the profound truth in giving, we receive, and in serving others through faith, hope and love."*

With Love in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jeannie Ranglas'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J'.

Jeannie Ranglas, President  
Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos

# **Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center**

## **Ministry Report**

**Submitted by Michael A. Pappas, Executive Director**  
[mikepappas@stnicholasranch.org](mailto:mikepappas@stnicholasranch.org)

### **Overview**

We are happy to report that Saint Nicholas Ranch has returned to normal operations for the 2023 calendar year. Business is finally picking up and most of our regular groups have returned, including all of the Metropolis Ministries that have so long called the Ranch their home.



In coordination with the Ranch Board, we are in the process of launching an outreach to bring in new groups and create a greater awareness of Saint Nicholas Ranch and what it has to offer.

### **Finances**

We have engaged a new bookkeeper and are working closely with him to bring bookkeeping, accounting and financial reporting to the highest possible standard.

The aftereffects of the pandemic continue to present serious financial challenges. The past three years have been difficult. Unfortunately, all of our larger groups are much smaller than they were in the past which has a significant impact on operating income. However, the outlook for the future is much more promising. Together with the Ranch Board, we are looking into options to address these ongoing financial challenges.

### **Staffing**

Our current staff level continues to be much lower than normal. We are struggling to find both full and part time staff. The areas of greatest concern are in the Kitchen and Housekeeping departments.

### **A Day at the Ranch Campaign**

We continue with our annual fundraising campaign. This ongoing outreach continues to help keep the Ranch on a more secure financial footing. In addition, throughout the year we receive both large and small donations from many friends of the Ranch. We greatly appreciate every offering of support given. With your generous support Saint Nicholas Ranch will continue to offer outstanding facilities and programs for the use of the faithful.

The fact is the Ranch operates at a yearly deficit from group rentals alone. We depend on unrestricted donations to pay the bills and keep the Ranch financially stable.

### **Ongoing Outreach**

In coordination with the Ranch Board we are instituting a new outreach through social media and our website. This weekly outreach provides updates on happenings at the Ranch and gives ways for people to offer their support.

Upkeep and maintenance of the facility and grounds are both difficult for us to keep up with and quite expensive. As part of our outreach we are offering opportunities for groups and individuals to give back to the Ranch through scheduled work projects. This is planned as an ongoing project throughout the year.

### **Renovations**

During the past several years we have focused on repairs and renovations of the Ranch facility. This continuing work has been made possible by the generous support of many families, foundations and associations, as well as support received at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. Much of this work is complete or in the process of completion. I am certain you have all noticed the improvements. This includes the following:

- Dining Hall: new flooring, ceiling, fans, lighting, windows, doors, enlarged and updated restrooms, exterior siding and paint.
- Kitchen: new fryer, commercial coffee makers, a walk-in freezer box, new icemaker, lighting, and paint.
- Laundry Rooms: new commercial washers and dryers.
- Girls Dorm: new restrooms with new sinks and fixtures, along with metal shower and restroom stalls, paint, flooring and windows. New Bunk Beds will follow.





- Conference Room: The expansion and renovation of the Saint Peter Conference Room is now complete. This expanded room accommodates approximately 100 additional people and will eventually include built-in audio-visual components and a sound system.
- New Siding: The Girls Dorm and Upper Conference room building has a new long lasting concrete type of siding, as does the Dining Room building. Eventually, all the buildings will have this new siding.
- The swimming pool was resurfaced including attractive “Greek Key” tile work.
- New signage: This includes a new entry sign at the main entrance at Dunlap Road and a sign at the Heritage Center. Additional sign work will be completed soon.



### **Philoptochos Lodge Siding**

In 2023, we completed the renovation of the Philoptochos Lodge with the installation of new siding matching the Dining Room and Girls Dorm.

### **Lodge Buildings New Bedding**

Both Lodge buildings, the Apostle and Philoptochos Lodges, received a beautiful upgrade with new mattresses, pillows and bedding. Finally, everyone can enjoy a comfortable sleep!



### **Wi-Fi and Office Equipment**

We are in the process of completing the installation of a new internet service that will provide full Internet coverage throughout the facility. In addition, we are installing new office equipment including computers, copiers and a updated phone system.

### **Looking Forward to the Future**

I am so appreciative that His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, several years ago, welcomed me into this very special ministry of the Metropolis – a place that transformed my life as a young man so long ago, as it has the lives of countless others through the decades. It has been such an inspiration working with so many people who love this place, who tirelessly have worked and continue to work to make this place a success. Recently Deacon Justin Bosl has taken a leadership role on the Ranch Board. His many trips to the Ranch, his inspiring words and support, and the sacrifices he has made mean a lot.

I have always felt that the possibilities for Saint Nicholas Ranch are endless. Our founding fathers left us with an inspiring vision and a strong foundation to grow

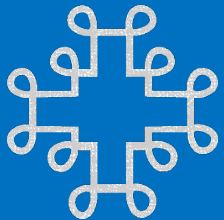
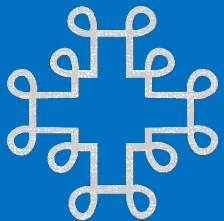
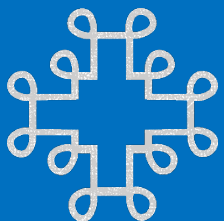
on. It is our generation's responsibility to build on that legacy. We look forward to working with all of you in this Holy Ministry of the Metropolis.

Respectfully in Christ,

Michael A. Pappas  
Executive Director



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO



# **2024 Stewardship Ministry Report to the Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly**

**Submitted by Steve Pappas**

March 2024





# 2024 Stewardship Ministry Report to the Clergy-Laity Assembly

2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES

METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

*Save these dates!*

**All on  
Monday evenings  
at 6:30 p.m. Pacific**

Information will be  
sent out monthly with  
topics, presenters and  
registration details.

Questions?  
Please email:  
[metropolis@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:metropolis@sanfran.goarch.org)

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Stewardship Ministry invites you to the 2023 Monthly Ministry Series. Our topics will continue to highlight the outstanding ministries in our Metropolis that will benefit your parish as well as your personal and spiritual growth, deepen your understanding of true Christian stewardship, and provide valuable information and insight into our ministries and how you can continue to serve the Church through your time, talent and treasure.

**Monday, May 15**  
Spread the Word, Call and Challenge  
Ministry Host: *Missions and Evangelism*

**Monday, June 19**  
Engaging Parishioners through True Christian Stewardship – Time, Talents, and Treasures  
Ministry Host: *Stewardship*

**Monday, July 17**  
Real Life: Parenting from the Heart  
Ministry Host: *Family Wellness*

**Monday, August 21**  
The Anastasimatarion - the importance of Saturday Vespers and Sunday Orthros in our lives  
Ministry Host: *Church Music*

**Monday, September 18**  
Icons, Iconography, and Iconographers  
Ministry Host: *Christian Education*

**Monday, October 16**  
Engaging our Youth and Young Adults in our post-COVID Era  
Ministry Host: *Youth and Young Adults*

**Monday, November 20**  
Being the Light and Lighthouse for True Christian Stewardship  
Ministry Host: *Stewardship*

**Monday, December 18**  
Developing and Engaging...Creating your Parish Plan for the New Year  
Ministry Host: *Orthodox Parish Leadership*

- The Metropolis Stewardship Ministry completed our 4<sup>th</sup> year of hosting the webinar series that showcases many numerous Metropolis Ministries.
- The 2023 series adopted the Metropolis CLA theme of “Let Your Light Shine!”
- Webinar registrations typically numbered 60 to 100+ with more than half of the registrants joining the live broadcast.
- The webinar series has become a valuable source of information and inspiration for lay leaders and clergy across the Metropolis and Archdiocese.
- Over the past four years, we’ve built a library of over 30 recorded webinar videos and presentations that can be accessed by anyone at:

<https://www.sanfran.goarch.org/pages/series>



# 2023 Ministry Series “Let Your Light Shine!” Calendar

Date	Topic	Ministries	Guest Speakers
Monday, May 15 6:30pm	Spread the Word, Call and Challenge	Missions & Evangelism	<u>Hosts:</u> Father Jerry Markopoulos & Kenny Scott <u>Guests:</u> Fr. Luke Veronis
Monday, June 19	Engaging Parishioners through True Christian Stewardship – Time, Talents, and Treasures	Stewardship	<u>Host:</u> Steve Pappas <u>Guests:</u> Father Stephen Vernak & Bill Marianes
Monday, July 17	Real Life: Parenting from the Heart	Family Wellness	<u>Hosts:</u> Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis & George Papageorge
Monday, August 21	The Anastasimatarion - the importance of Saturday Vespers and Sunday Orthros in our lives	Church Music	<u>Hosts:</u> Christopher Hondros & Ross Ritterman <u>Guests:</u> Deacon Justin Bosl
Monday, September 18	Icons, Iconography, and Iconographers	Christian Education	<u>Host:</u> Dr. Eve Tibbs <u>Guests:</u> Father Michael Courey & Father Tom Tsagalakis
Monday, October 16	Engaging our Youth and Young Adults in our post-COVID Era	Youth & Young Adult	<u>Host:</u> Johanna Duterte <u>Guests:</u> Eva Konstantakos, Anna Teodosiadis, and Eva-Marie Kallas
Monday, November 20	Being the Light and Lighthouse for True Christian Stewardship	Stewardship	<u>Host:</u> Steve Pappas <u>Guests:</u> Fr. James Kordaris & Joseph Kormos
Monday, January 22	Parish Ministry Effectiveness – The Power of “One”	Orthodox Parish Leadership	<u>Host:</u> Steve Tibbs <u>Guests:</u> George Ekizian & Peter Panagis





# 2023 “Let Your Light Shine” Webinar Series Flyers



**2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES**

**Let Your Light Shine! Spread the Word, Call and Challenge**

**Save these dates!**  
All on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Pacific

**Monday, June 19**  
Engaging Parishioners through True Christian Stewardship: Time, Talents, and Treasures

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Real Life: Parenting from the Heart

**Monday, August 21**  
The Anastasiatarion - The importance of Saturday Vespers and Sunday Orthros in our lives

**Monday, September 18**  
Icons, Iconography and Iconographers

**Monday, November 20**  
Bringing the Light and Lighthouse for True Christian Stewardship

**Monday, December 18**  
Developing and Engaging... Creating your Parish Plan for the New Year



**2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES**

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**2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES**

**Real Life: Parenting from the Heart**

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**2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES**

**Engaging our Youth and Young Adults in our post-COVID Era**

**Save these dates!**  
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**Monday, October 16, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Pacific**

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**Monday, December 18, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Pacific**



**2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES**

**Being the Light and Lighthouse for True Christian Stewardship**

**Save these dates!**  
All on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Pacific

**Monday, November 20, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Pacific**

**Monday, December 18, 2023 - 6:30 p.m. Pacific**



**MINISTRY SERIES**

**Parish Ministry Effectiveness - The Power of One**

**Save these dates!**  
All on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Pacific

**Monday, January 22, 2024 - 6:30 p.m. Pacific**





# 2024 Plans for Stewardship Ministry

- Steve Pappas will be joining the Orthodox Parish Leadership Team to lead the "Parish Health & Revitalization" workstream.
- Kristina Mehas of Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Seattle will take over leadership of the Metropolis Stewardship Ministry and lead the "Stewardship" workstream on the Orthodox Parish Leadership Team.
- Steve will continue to host the 2024 Metropolis Webinar Series with approximately 6 sessions focused on the Orthodox Parish Leadership topics of:

Parish Health & Revitalization

Leadership Development

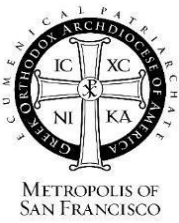
Strategic Planning

Planned Giving

Stewardship

Capital Campaigns

- Given the success of our Metropolis Webinar Series, Steve is also serving on the Clergy-Laity Congress subcommittee for Ministry Panels and Workshops



## **Ministry Update**

**Metropolis Clergy-Laity Assembly  
March 4-5, 2024**



**Ministry:** Young Adult League (YAL) Conference

**Leader:** George Anagnostopoulos

**E-mail:** georgeanagno@icloud.com

**Cell:** 909-205-6022

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### **Main activities / events completed in 2023:**

- **Annual Metropolis YAL Conference - Labor Day Weekend 2023 – Orange County, CA:**

- This year's Conference welcomed over 450+ young adults came from 32 states across the country to FULFILL their faith, vocations, and lives through Christ.
- The event was a wonderful well-balanced weekend of faith, fellowship and service which included:
- The Conference keynotes were headlined by two prominent women in their respective fields with very distinct backgrounds and unique experiences. Michelle Moujaes, the Founder and Executive Director of FaithTree Resources, and Matina Kolokotronis the COO of the NBA Sacramento Kings.
- After each keynote the participants engaged with clergy from across the metropolis in six workshops to have discussions on distinct topics pertaining to the overall theme. Those topics were "Dating for Marriage" with Fr. Christopher and Presvytera Kalli Retelas (St. John the Baptist - Anaheim, CA), "Finding your Purpose" with Fr. Nicholas Metrakos (Holy Trinity - San Francisco, CA), "Finding your Potential: How Discipline Leads to Freedom" with Fr. Michael Prevas (St. Nicholas - Northridge, CA), "Finding your Focus through Prayer and Stillness" with Fr. Photios Dumont (St. Demetrios - Seattle, WA), "How Christ Heals and Calls Us Back after Falling Away" with Fr. Gary Kyriacou (St. Sophia Cathedral - Los Angeles, CA), and "Boundaries: When to Say Yes and When to Say No" with Fr. Tom and Presvytera Pat Tsagalakis (Holy Apostles - Shoreline, WA).
- This year's Diakonia project was once again sponsored by the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos Board, continuing the multi-year partnership between YAL and Philoptochos. This year the ladies of Philoptochos and young adults assembled 700 care packages through a local charity called the "Illumination Foundation" whose mission is to disrupt the cycle of homelessness in Southern California by providing a comprehensive safety net of client-centered services for the most vulnerable individuals, families, and children.
- Other Conference highlights included a "Rock N YAL" event at the iconic House of Blues concert venue in Anaheim California, a afternoon at the beach, a Hellenic Gleni with DJ Gus Sverkos and young adult Greek musicians, Hierarchical Divine Liturgy on Sunday at St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Anaheim, CA and an optional trip on Monday to Disneyland.
- This Conference was truly a remarkable experience and would not have been possible without the leadership of esteemed advisors, Hon. Steven and Mrs. Stacia Counelis, along with newly appointed young adult advisor and previous Conference Chairman, George T. Anagnostopoulos, all of whom were instrumental in the creation of this years' Conference, and gave great direction and guidance for the new Co-Chairs and committee.

- Special thanks to Eva-Marie Kailas and Joseph Dumont who served as the 2023 YAL Conference Co-Chairs, the planning committee and volunteers. The Executive Committee members for 2023 were: Caroline Basdakis, Jimmy Cardaras, Demetri Dogias, Elena Guillen, Cassiani Kateyiannis, Jack Koulos, Nia Matty, Aaron Papagalos, Julia Pappas, Grace Paris, Stephania Veziris, and Christine Scolinos.
- The YAL Conference leadership team thanks His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and His Grace Bishop Ioannis for attending the Conference, as well as Metropolis President Jeannie Ranglas and Hellenic College Holy Cross President George Cantonis for attending and engaging with the young adults. The team also is grateful to Rev. Fr. Chris Retelas and St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church in Anaheim, California for hosting us on Sunday for Hierarchical Divine Liturgy.
- The YAL Conference was made possible, in part, by the exceptional support of a grant from Leadership 100, demonstrating their ongoing commitment to expanding this important ministry for the future of our Church. Heartfelt gratitude is also extended to the many other donors who contributed their time, talent, and treasure for the success of the 2023 Metropolis of San Francisco YAL Conference, including the members of the Metropolis Council for their steadfast support of the ministry.
- YAL In Your Backyard – our year around YAL Ministry by young adults dedicated to bringing young adults together locally in fellowship and fun. This grassroots program is structured by young adult volunteers to organize, host, and implement YAL events in their own communities.

#### **2023 Events:**

- January: YAL In Your Backyard Leadership Retreat - Denver CO
- February: YALIYB Presanctified Divine Liturgy with His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros-Oakland, CA
- March: Greek Independence Day Bonfire - Huntington Beach, CA
- April: Sunday Divine Liturgy and Top Golf - Seattle, WA
- August: Spanakopita Baking Worship - Irvine, CA
- October: YAL Weekend at the Metropolis of San Francisco Gala - San Francisco, CA
- December: YALIYB Great Vespers & White Elephant Exchange - Los Angeles, CA

#### **Main activities/events planned for 2024:**

**Metropolis YAL Conference:** Since the Metropolis of San Francisco is hosting the 2024 National YAL Conference this year, we will not host our annual Metropolis YAL Conference over Labor Day Weekend. Our team and efforts will work to make this National YAL Conference the best Conference yet! Our regular Metropolis YAL Conference will resume Labor Day Weekend in 2025.

**2024 National YAL Conference, July 3-7, 2024** Following the first National YAL Conference in New York in 2022, with the blessing of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) is pleased to announce that plans are underway for the 2024 National YAL Conference. The Conference will be held July 3-7, 2024 in picturesque San Diego, California, graciously hosted by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and the Metropolis of San Francisco.

- This year's National YAL Conference will coincide with the Biennial Clergy Laity Congress and National Philoptochos Biennial Convention. Embracing the Clergy Laity Congress theme, "In Christ, We Are One" (Romans 12:4-5), the National YAL Conference aims to unite young adults from across the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America for a five-day experience centered on faith, fellowship, worship, service, and fun. It seeks to strengthen young adults' connections with the Church and each other as unified members of the Body of Christ.



- George T. Anagnostopoulos has been appointed by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros to serve as the 2024 National YAL Conference Chair. Anagnostopoulos will lead a dynamic Planning Committee, comprised of young adult representatives from various Metropolises of the Archdiocese. Oversight of this year's National Conference will be under the guidance of Archdiocese Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM), Eva Konstantakos, along with Archdiocesan Conference Advisors Archon Hon. Steven and Stacia Counelis.
- The event schedule will feature many incredible opportunities to forge lasting and meaningful connections with fellow Orthodox Christian young adults. Schedule highlights include captivating speakers and workshops, participation in select segments of the Clergy-Laity Congress, witnessing the renowned San Diego Big Bay Boom July 4th Fireworks Show, immersive exploration of the picturesque city of San Diego, active engagement in a "Diakonia" service project in collaboration with and sponsored by the National Philoptochos Society, and will conclude on Sunday, July 7 with a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy celebrated by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos.
- The 2024 National YAL Conference Committee is also comprised of Eva-Marie Kailas and Joseph Dumont who will serve as Vice-Chairs. Executive Committee members are Julia Pappas, Grace Paris, Lenie Tsakonas, Caroline Basdakis, Jenna Cardaras, Elena Guillen, Cassiani Kateyiannis, Aaron Papagalos, Stephania Veziris, Christine Scolinos, Kostas Prevas, Lucas Postolos, Kostantine Ouranitsas, Yianna Papadeas, George Papadeas, and Christos Schwarz
- Registration for the National YAL Conference is set to launch in early March 2024. Follow **@yalnationalconference** on Facebook and Instagram.

#### **Additional Comments:**

The YAL Conference has grown into one of the largest young adult events in our Archdiocese over the past few years. Want to support the Conference ministry? Your generous gift supports the current young adult leaders of the church, who will also serve as the future leaders, clergy, and support system of our beloved church. Scan the PayPal link here to give a gift today!



Scan. Pay. Go.



**National**  **July 3-7, 2024**  
**San Diego, California**

 **CONFERENCE**  
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA **2024**



















## 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

## Youth Safety Update

The launch of our Archdiocesan Youth Safety platform has been a project in the works for many years. We launched the new youth safety platform back in October of 2022, and it has taken MANY long hours of ensuring every parish in our Metropolis signed the contract with Sterling, provided all the legal documents to get them fully credentialed, appointed a PYSA who was then trained. The big efforts made in 2023 have been to continuously retrain any new PYSAs that have switched out and to onboard all the parish youth workers, Parish Council Members, and parish employees. This was the first year we required all Parish Council members to become compliant for ratification purposes, and the second year we required all FDF directors and chaperons to also become compliant in order to participate in FDF. This took a lot of extra work and coaching individuals through the process.

Our big goals for 2024 will be to ensure parishes have ALL their youth workers, parish council members, and parish employees compliant for the upcoming ministry year by this September 2024, which means they many need to “renew” early. Another goal is to have all California parishes complete their live scan background checks. We will need to touch base with each parish individually to ensure that every altar server, sports coach, Sunday school teacher, Greek school teacher, youth event volunteer and driver, etc. are all compliant. The Youth Safety Platform website may show that a parish is 100% compliant with 20/20 people current, but it does not show who has not yet even registered in the system. Another goal will be to continue to offer ongoing trainings and open office hours for PYSA's to join. Ensuring our PYSA's are confident when using the system will help everything to run more smoothly, especially since this position tends to change every year or two at the parish level.

As of February 23, 2024 we currently have 1866/2420 (77%) of our youth workers, parish council members, and parish employees registered, trained, and screened across our Metropolis. This does not include any data on the California requirement for live scan finger printing.

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## Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe - January 13-16, 2023

The unprecedented storms of winter 2023 were no match for the participants in the Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat offered by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries from January 13 – 16, 2023. Though an additional 20 registrants had to cancel due to the extreme weather and travel delays, the retreat was still a wonderful opportunity to explore the topic “The Glory of God is a Human Being Fully Alive”, with guest speaker Dr. Bethany Geleris, DNP. Rev. Father Nicholas Metrakos also actively participated in the retreat and led the group in Divine Services throughout the weekend.

The retreat was held at the Galilee Camp and Conference Center in South Lake Tahoe. With the area experiencing 250% of their annual projected snowfall, the setting was beautiful with fresh white snow covering the entire area and provided a picturesque background for a weekend filled with opportunities for spiritual enrichment, prayer, fellowship and fun in the snow!

During the discussion sessions, participants were led on an exploration of what God’s glory means from a Scriptural and theological context. They also gained an understanding of the important of our Orthodox Christian anthropology, reflecting on the implications of our composite nature (body and soul) and how it relates to our role as the mediators between the physical and spiritual worlds. The final session connected the first two and helped participants understand how God’s glory transforms our humanity.

The worship services included the Blessing of the Waters, Paraklesis, the Akathist of Thanksgiving, and culminated with Divine Liturgy. This prayerful atmosphere was further enhanced by the engaging discussions and fellowship. There was also time for outdoor activities including snowball fights, sledding, snowshoeing, s’mores, board games and more.



## FDF in Phoenix, AZ - February 16 - 20, 2023

We had a booth at FDF to once again promote the ministries of the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries, as well as the Office of Youth Safety. It was our first year requiring all Dance Directors and designated Chaperones to complete the Archdiocese Youth Safety requirements, and it took A LOT of time and effort to assist the parishes in becoming compliant. A good number of our parishes were able to reach full compliance, but there were still a few parishes who had issues with individual user accounts and we were able to help troubleshoot these issues in the weeks and months following FDF 2023.



## Metropolis Young Adult Lenten Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch - March 17-19, 2023

About 45 young adults gathered for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Young Adult Lenten Retreat held at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA over the weekend of March 17-19, 2023. Participants came from throughout the Metropolis of San Francisco, as well as from Houston and Chicago.

The retreat opened with some group introductions and a brief discussion to introduce the retreat theme, "By the Power of Your Cross." The evening concluded with the praying of the Paraklesis Service in the Saint Photini Chapel at the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center. Saturday morning began with an Orthros service and a hearty Ranch breakfast to get the day started. A morning presentation were offered by Eva Konstantakos, the new Archdiocesan Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries. The adjacent Monastery of the Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring was the afternoon destination where the young adults toured the beautiful grounds, and assisted the sisters with a work project to clean up around "The Cross" up on the hill. They also attended Great Vespers at the Monastery on Saturday evening, and enjoyed a wonderful time at the lake for a campfire, talent show, and s'mores. The weekend concluded with Divine Liturgy at the Monastery followed by breakfast and a visit to the Monastery bookstore.



## Family Wellness Collaboration - "Real Life" Parenting Series - May 11 & 25, 2023

The Metropolis Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries continues to partner with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry to assist with the organization, implementation, and communication of Zoom series throughout the year. This May we launched the first two sessions of the spring parenting series which was a great success with almost 170 registrations with couples from all over the Country!



## St. John Chrysostom Metropolis Oratorical Festival - May 13, 2023

This was the first year since 2019 having all five Districts host in-person District Oratorical Festivals this past year. The Metropolis Oratorical Festival was held the weekend of May 12-14, 2023 at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. The finalists who advanced to the National Festival were Evan Anagnostopoulos and Despina Anagnostopoulos from Prophet Elias in San Bernardino, CA. That's right, brother and sister both advanced from the junior and senior categories! Evan went on to receive Honorable Mention in the senior division, and Despina placed third in the junior division, which was a huge honor for both our Metropolis and their family!





## Metropolis Summer Camp at St. Nicholas Ranch, July 3-29, 2023

This past summer was our first “normal” summer post covid, because the summer of 2022 required a lot of Covid protocols. The Metropolis was able to welcome 240 campers, 60 staff members, 13 clergy, and many volunteers from across the Metropolis and Archdiocese for three weeks of camp and a week of staff orientation to engage in fellowship, prayer, fun, meaningful conversations, and time reflecting on the summer's theme, “This is the Way”.

A challenge we have experienced the past two years since Covid has been having a younger staff. One of our goals for this next year is to recruit staff members ages 19-35 in hopes of having a few grad students and young professionals on our team to help offer additional leadership to the younger generation. Another challenge has been having a full Management Team to help plan and execute camp. At this time there is only one full-time Metropolis staff member responsible for camp, and relying on the possibility of volunteers who don't have a job in the summer from year to year has become inconsistent and exhausting.

Because of the abundant winter rains, our beloved lake was full once again and available this past summer for canoeing and fishing. This allowed us to bring back Adventure Day at the lake which allows the entire camp to spend the morning rotating around enjoying canoeing, fishing, archery, hayrides, and hammocking. Throughout the rest of the week our campers enjoyed the other daily activities of arts and crafts, aquatics, Orthodox Life, and faith and culture. During the evenings we had our three traditional campfires, a fun night of a Star Wars themed scavenger hunt, and a final night of camp with a luau dance at the pool. It was another wonderful summer at Saint Nicholas Ranch, and we look forward to making plans for summer 2024!



## YAL Conference in Anaheim - August 31 - September 4, 2023

The Metropolis Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries once again helped support the YAL Conference with helping to oversee the transportation bus logistics for the weekend, providing ice breaker name tags for the Thursday mixer event, as well as having a booth to promote the ministries of the Office. I spoke with many young adults who were interested in both our young adult retreats and summer camp staff opportunities.



## Family Wellness Collaboration - “Real Life” Parenting Series - Oct 11 - Nov 18, 2023



The Metropolis Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministries continues to partner with the Metropolis Family Wellness Ministry to assist with the organization, implementation, and communication of Zoom series throughout the year. This October we launched the second set of sessions of the fall parenting series which was a great success with almost 150 registrations with couples from all over the Country!



## Metropolis Young Adult Fall Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch - October 13 - 15, 2023

We had our Metropolis Young Adult Fall Retreat once again at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA over the weekend of October 13-15, 2023. Participants came from throughout the Metropolis. The retreat opened with time for fellowship and enjoying the crisp mountain air and the beautiful scenery. Following dinner, the group gathered for a brief discussion to introduce the retreat theme, "The Life You're Looking For" with our speaker Christian Gonzalez from the OYM. The evening concluded with the praying of the Paraklesis Service in the Saint Photini Chapel at the Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center.



Saturday morning began with a morning hike on the Prayer Trail for the service of the Akathist of Thanksgiving "Glory to God for All Things". Our speaker guided the participants in engaging conversations centering this Life around communion with Christ, community with brothers and sisters in Christ, and ministry to Christ's world.

The adjacent Monastery of the Theotokos the Life-Giving Spring was the afternoon destination where the young adults toured the beautiful grounds, met with Gerontissa Markella, and assisted the sisters with a work project picking apples at their farm. They also attended Great Vespers at the Monastery on Saturday evening, and after a delicious dinner at the Ranch, enjoyed a wonderful time at the lake for a campfire, talent show, and s'mores. The weekend concluded with Divine Liturgy at the Monastery followed by breakfast and a visit to the Monastery bookstore.

## Metropolis Family Winter Camp - December 27 - 30, 2023

We offered the first annual Metropolis Family Winter Camp this past year at our beloved St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center. It was a wonderful opportunity for our families to gather together at the Ranch and have the opportunity to be ministered to as an entire family unit and take home the experience, prayers, joy, and memories to cherish as a family.

Our first morning began with a hike along the Prayer Trail for the service of the Akathist of Thanksgiving "Glory to God for All Things", followed by a delicious breakfast and a discussion with Fr. Constantine Trumpower about how we are called to be the "salt of the earth". We spent the rest of the morning decorating mason jars for the family wellness meal time discussion questions, as well as enjoying some time making dinner time pot holders at arts and crafts with Doc and Ruth. The afternoon was spent visiting the Monastery, bookstore, and attending Vespers. We came together in the evening for a family talent show and campfire with s'mores and songs with Doc.

Our second day began with family morning prayers in the Faith and Heritage Center, a few hours of arts and crafts, and a field trip to explore the giant sequoias at the Kings Canyon National Park, just 45 minutes up the mountain! We concluded the evening with the service of the Paraklesis and a family game night and more arts & crafts in St. Peter's conference room.

Our last day together began with an opportunity to attend the 4:00am Divine Liturgy at the Monastery, followed by a later breakfast and short family morning prayers on the front porch of Faith & Heritage Center. We had another opportunity to visit the Monastery and help with a work project of peeling apples and cracking walnuts for the sisters. After lunch we gathered to say our goodbyes, and hopes to gather again during this very special time of the year.

