

2021 STEWARDSHIP TOWN HALL SERIES



Life After Festivals

(As We've Known Them)



Monday, June 28, 2021

Presented by Steven Pappas & Bill Marianes

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Tonight's Theme:

Festivals are wonderful and important to our communities; however they should not be a surrogate for Stewardship needed to cover the operating costs of our parishes.



Tonight's Town Hall Agenda



- ❑ Participant Polling Questions
- ❑ Re-Imagining Festivals – Steve Pappas
- ❑ Parish Stories
- ❑ Stewardship Perspectives – Bill Marianes
- ❑ Open Town Hall Dialogue

Polling Question #1



In 2021, is your Parish planning to:

- A. Have no Festival
- B. Have a modified Festival format (e.g., food-to-go)
- C. Return to a Pre-Covid Festival format

Polling Question #2



In 2020, did your Parish Stewardship:

A. Increase?

B. Decrease?

C. Stay roughly the same as 2019

History of Greek Festivals – How Did We Get Here



1st Half of the 20th Century
Syllogo (Society) Picnics



2nd Half of the 20th Century
Church Fundraising Festivals



1st Half of the 21st Century
???

How will our generation
evolve the traditional
“Greek Festival”

“We can say without question that the revenues from these festivals forever changed the nature of our Greek Orthodox parishes in North America. Simultaneously, no other public event generates such goodwill among the general American public toward the local churches as these festivals.”

Source: “How Did Those Greek Festivals Get Started in America?” by Steve Frangos in The National Herald, June 2, 2007

Why We Love Our Festivals



- We share our Hellenic **culture** and Orthodox **faith** with our neighbors
- We bring a wide group of our parishioners together for a **common purpose**
- We enjoy one another's **fellowship**
- We **raise funds** for our parishes

Why We Loathe Our Festivals

- They require a tremendous amount of **planning and effort**
- They require us to **solicit donations** of food items and money from parishioners
- They are incredibly **labor and time-intensive** -- often demanding very *long days from too few* volunteers
- We **rely on funds raised** to keep our churches running



Parishes Have Become Dependent on Festivals

We've come to rely on festivals to fund the general operations of our parishes

Typically, 28% of parish income come from festivals (and in some cases, hall rentals)

We've been talking and renumerating about this topic for many, many years . . . then in 2020, a global pandemic changed our world (and our churches)

Returning Stronger and With a Renewed Purpose

Today, we all stand on this precipice and have the opportunity to bring about meaningful changes that will help sustain our parishes for decades to come.



Re-imagining Festivals for Future Generations

2020 finally forced all of us to re-think and re-imagine what Festivals should be in our communities

- *Do we move from just Greek to multi-ethnic events?*
- *How can we make these events greater engines for Outreach & Evangelism?*
- *Should Festival fundraising be committed to special purposes, charities, and/or ministries?*
- *How do we engage a greater number parishioners, but in a less time-intensive manner?*

Stewardship Perspectives on this New Reality

- We must educate our faithful on the need for **increasing Stewardship** in order to decrease the reliance on Festivals for the general operations of the church.
- New Festival formats may require even **less time & talents** as historically given by our predecessors, *and* we must now commit **more treasures** to support our church.
- As part of this evolution, we need to turn **Festival-only givers to Stewards** of our parishes

Festivals Igniting True Christian Stewardship

With this evolution, we can begin to use festival proceeds to fund:

- Engagement of our parishioners via thriving ministries
- Outreach to our communities via charitable support of others
- Evangelism for educating our faithful and those looking to learn about Orthodoxy



Parish Story – Annunciation in Sacramento, CA



Presented by:
Stefanie
Hionis

SACRAMENTO GREEK FESTIVAL PRESENTS

ANNUNCIATION GREEK-TO-GO SERIES

Saturday May 22, 2021

Souvlakia
(sue-vlok-yia)

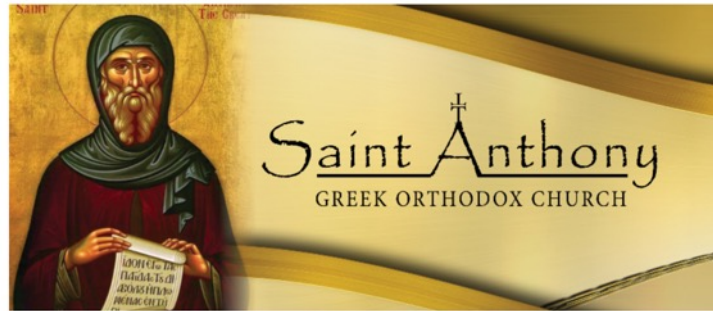
6TH
IN THE
SERIES

Parish Story – St. Anthony in Reno, NV



Presented by:

Dimi
Sakelarios



2020-2021 Income Generation Plan
“FAITH and LIGHT for All Generations”

Stewardship Approach Overview

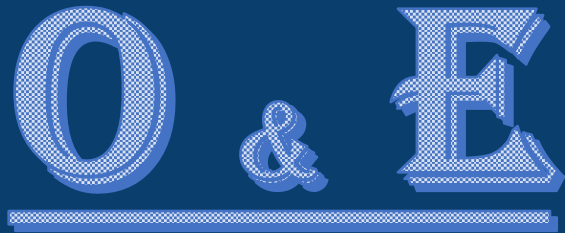
June 28, 2021

How'd We Get Here?



When were Greek festivals invented in America and Why?

What Should Be The Primary Purpose Of Festivals?



- There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28
- Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. 1 Peter 4:9
- Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Hebrews 13:2

What Should We Do With The Money We Make At Our Festivals?

- Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed.

Proverbs 19:17

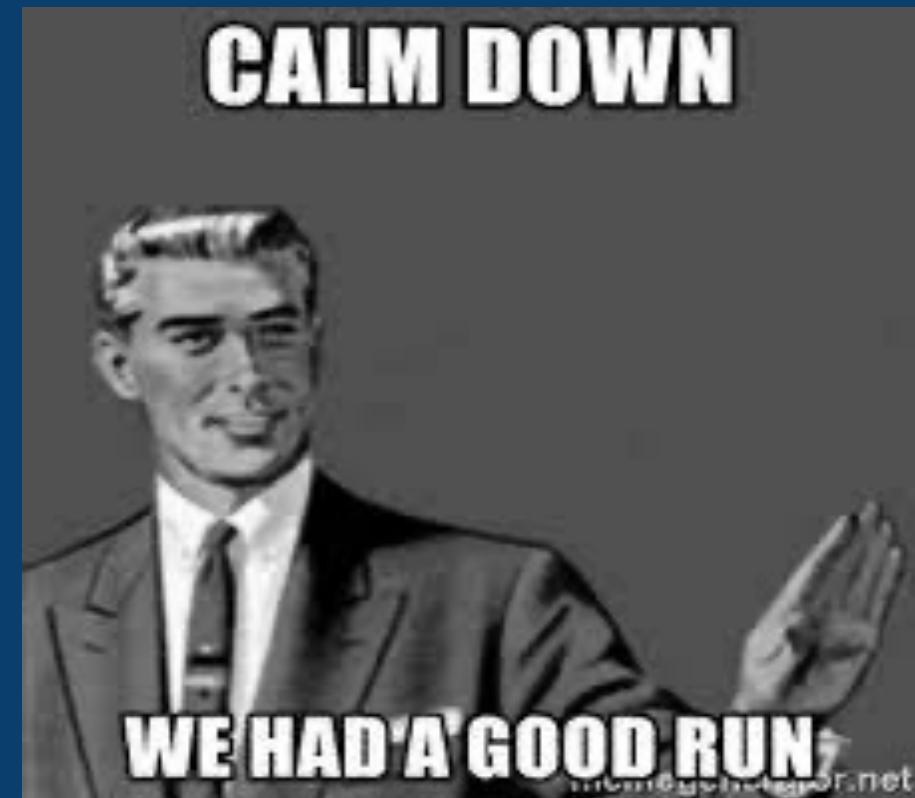
- Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Hebrews 13:16



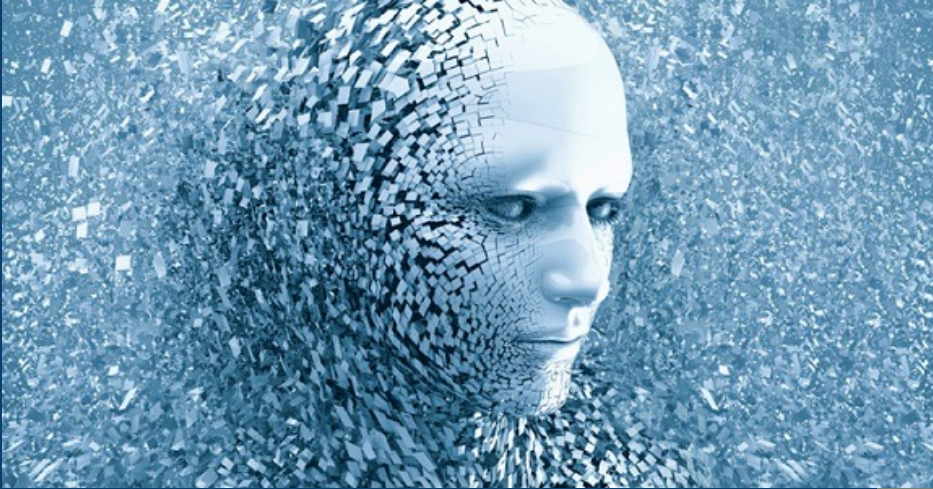
- One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered. Proverbs 11:24-25

Why Pivot Now?

- Never waste a crisis
- Our young adults and children are smarter and more successful than we were at their age
- “Change before you have to!” (Jack Welch)
- “For everything there is a season...”
Ecclesiastes 3:1



What Does The Festival Of The Future Look Like?



Town Hall Discussion



Share your
experiences &
perspectives



Thank You for Joining Us Tonight
σας ευχαριστούμε