



Summer 2017

In - CHOIR - Er

Publication of the
Greek Orthodox Metropolis

sanfran.churchmusic.goarch.org



July 14, 2017

✠ Hyacinth the Martyr of Caesarea



Beloved Church Musicians,
May the grace and peace of
our Lord be with you!

It is a joy to greet you as
you prepare for your
Summer Conference to be
held at Saint Nicholas
Ranch and Retreat Center
in August. I commend you
for making this decision and
expanding the vision for

your conference to devote more time to educational
presentations while still retaining opportunities for
music and fellowship.

I had the opportunity in the spring to meet with the
Executive Leadership of the Federation and I know
that your ministry is working hard to adapt to the
changing needs of our parishes for which I am very
grateful. Music has been and will always be integral to
our worship and the Federation has an important role
toward this end. I encourage you to keep expanding
your focus so that with one voice and with one heart
you may always bring praise and honor to the Name
of the Lord.

Wishing you a blessed summer and thanking God for
your gifts which you share for His Glory, I remain,

With Love in Christ,

Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

✠ Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco

JOIN US AT ST. NICHOLAS RANCH & RETREAT CENTER

Renew, Relax, Rejoice!

Come join us at St. Nicholas Ranch on August 24 – 27,
2017. Traditionally, our Federation Church Music Summer
Conference is held at one of the many beautiful churches in
our Metropolis. But this year we will venture into the
Fresno foothills to St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center,
elevation approximately 2,000 ft. The Ranch is nestled in a
beautiful valley in the Sierra Nevada foothills, just outside
the Sequoia National Park. www.stnicholasranch.org.

The focus for this conference won't be Sunday's Liturgy, but
on learning about our faith properly singing. We have four
(4) excellent facilitators joining us; Ms. Michele Patzakis, Dr.
Eve Tibbs, Protopsaltis John Boyer, and Dr. John Klentos.
Ms. Kathy Meck will hold a breakout session on "Working
with a Youth Choir and Young Voices"; and Dr. Tikey Zes
will hold a breakout session on "Conducting Techniques". *If
you are interested in attending a breakout session, you can only
choose one as the sessions will be held simultaneously.*

On Sunday, we will be singing the unison Divine Liturgy
Hymnal in Greek and English by Dr. Tikey Zes.

In this issue of the In-Choir-er you will find the full packet
for the Federation Church Music Summer Conference along
with News from the Pews and award nomination
information. Please take a look at what we're doing this year
and join us at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center in
August.

You can download the packet and registration form on the
Church Music Federation's website:

<http://sanfrancisco.churchmusic.goarch.org/news/conf>.

*While we anticipate having ample Lodge rooms, they will be
reserved on a first-come, first served basis, so you'll want to
complete your registration as early as possible.*

Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation Conference

Renew, Relax, Rejoice!



August 24 – 27, 2017

St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center

38526 Dunlap Rd, Squaw Valley, CA 93675

www.stnicholasranch.org

Welcome to the Ranch!

As your Federation President, I'm excited and pleased to invite you to a very special edition of our yearly conference. Your board has worked hard, prayed hard, and used all our creativity in bringing you this great opportunity for fellowship, education, and inspiration.

Here are five great reasons to come...

1. Affordability

This conference will be different. Your room and meals are included in your registration fee. No separate hotel costs and no busing to a church or restaurants; it's all within walking distance.

2. The Setting

Only a short 40-minute drive from Fresno, the Ranch sits in a picturesque valley, close to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. The natural beauty, peace and tranquility here are unmatched.

3. Spirituality

In addition to the Ranch's great peaceful environment, it's also within steps of one of the most beautiful and iconic Greek Orthodox Monasteries in the United States. The gift store carries religious gifts, icons, books and much more can be found only here at the Monastery and there are handmade authentic items made by the nuns themselves. **FYI: only cash and checks may be used, credit cards are not excepted.**

4. Hospitality

Michael Pappas, Executive Director of St. Nicholas Ranch and his staff will provide excellent hospitality to each of you.

5. Facility

Last but not least, one of the top reasons to visit the Ranch is of course the facility. You'll find beautiful and clean lodging, an Olympic size swimming pool, great meeting rooms, a dining room with a fireplace, the new Faith and Heritage Center, and an apple orchard are all within a stone's through of your lodging.

Facilities at the Ranch

The Lodge Rooms



Beautifully decorated hotel style Lodge Rooms can accommodate up to 2 people per room and include private bathrooms*.

The Dormitories

Dormitories have shared bathrooms with private restroom and shower facilities*.



****BED LINENS AND TOWELS ARE PROVIDED FOR EACH GUEST.***
Lodge rooms and Dormitories are individually climate controlled.

The Pool



A large pool offers a cool refreshing swim in the hot summer months.

The Dining Room

The expert culinary staff at St. Nicholas Ranch will provide outstanding meals throughout the conference weekend.



The Lake

A spring-fed lake presents an ideal setting for canoeing and picnics.

The Hiking Trails

Miles of hiking trails, winding through ancient oak forests, allow you to experience the plant and wildlife of the California foothills.

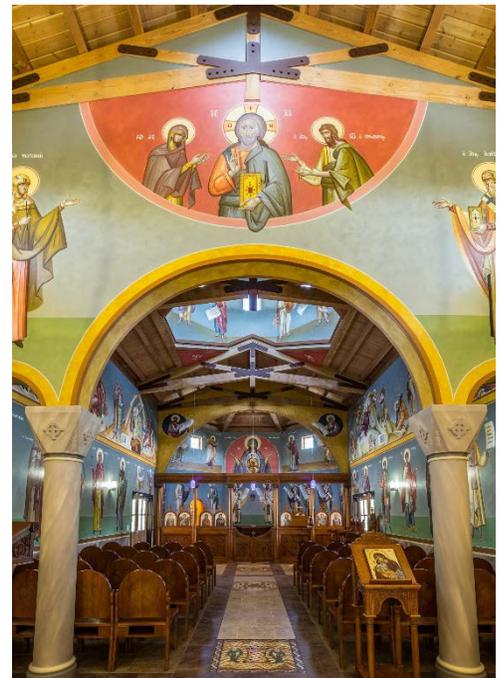
The Monastery of the Holy Theotokos the Life Giving Spring

The Monastery of the Holy Theotokos the Life Giving Spring, is a women's monastery built on a hill overlooking the Ranch, which was founded in 1993 by Bishop Anthony.



A spiritual oasis of Orthodox Christian worship and spirituality, the monastery welcomes pilgrims throughout the year.

The Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center



The Alex and Faye Spanos Faith and Heritage Center, designed by Christ J. Kamages of the CJK Design Group, spans nearly 7,000 square feet. Its barn-like exterior complements the existing structures of Saint Nicholas Ranch yet brings a modern feel through the interior which includes the Metropolitan Anthony Gallery, administrative offices, a library, infirmary, gift shop, conference room, and fireside room.

Guest Facilitators:

Ms. Michele Patzakís ~

A Los Angeles native, lyric Soprano Michele Patzakís is celebrated as a performer, director and educator. Ms. Patzakís currently is a candidate in the Doctor of Musical Arts program at the USC Thornton School of Music where she holds a Teaching Assistantship and teaches Voice Class. Her fields of study include a directed research program called 'Vocal Arts Medicine' where she works with the USC/Keck Voice Center team. She received a B.M. from the University of Southern California School of Music. Michele is a member of St. Sophia Cathedral in Los Angeles.

Dr. Eve (Paraskevè) Tibbs ~

Dr. Tibbs is an Affiliate Assistant Professor of Theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA where she has taught since 2005. She holds a Ph.D. in Theology with a minor in Church History and an M.A. in Theology with an emphasis in Biblical Studies. Dr. Tibbs has served as Chair of the Eastern Orthodox Studies Group of the American Academy of Religion, is the Ministry Lead for Christian Education in the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, and serves as a member the Metropolis Council. Dr. Tibbs attends Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA.

Protopsaltís John Boyer ~

Metropolis *Protopsaltis* **John Michael Boyer** has been a professional singer and conductor since 1997. As *Protopsaltis* (First Cantor) of the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco and an expert Byzantine cantor, he lectures on liturgical music across the United States and abroad. He has been a singer with the world-renowned vocal ensemble Cappella Romana since 1997, and was made the ensemble's Associate Musical Director in January, 2017. John graduated with his Masters of Divinity as a seminarian at Holy Cross in 2014 and currently serves the faithful of the Metropolis of San Francisco as *Protopsaltis*, consulting and teaching at the parish level across the Metropolis, and developing educational initiatives and resources in the areas of Orthodox liturgical music, liturgical rubrics, and liturgical theology, as directed by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

Dr. John Klentos ~

Dr. Klentos is an Associate Professor of Eastern Orthodox Christian Studies, GTU/PAOI at the Core Doctoral Faculty at the Graduate Theological Union, Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute in Berkeley, CA. He received his BA from Hellenic College in 1982, Masters of Divinity at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in 1989, his MA from the University of Notre Dame in 1992, and his PhD from the University of Notre Dame in 1996. His current research and teaching interests include History of the Byzantine Liturgy; Theological Interpretations of Liturgical Events; Ecclesiology, Church in Orthodox Christian Thought; Liturgical History: Early and Medieval; Orthodox Christian Theology of Person; and Orthodox Christian Spirituality.



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION CONFERENCE
AUGUST 24 – 27, 2017
ST. NICHOLAS RANCH & RETREAT CENTER, DUNLAP, CA

Renew, Relax, Rejoice!

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration Deadline is August 11, 2017 - *No Refunds*

For Lodge Double Occupancy, registration form must include info for both registrants
Please see instructions on back of this form

Registrant 1

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell _____
Email _____ Parish _____
Parish City _____ Arrival Date & Time _____
Emergency Contact _____ Tel. _____

Registrant 2

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Home Phone _____ Cell _____
Email _____ Parish _____
Parish City _____ Arrival Date & Time _____
Emergency Contact _____ Tel. _____

PLEASE NOTE: Registration Fees include accommodations and all meals

Dormitory Stay per person: -----\$285.00 \$ _____

Lodge Stay per person double occupancy Registrant 1 \$365.00 \$ _____

Registrant 2 \$365.00 \$ _____

For Single Lodge Room Occupancy add -----\$120.00 \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Paying by Check(s) ___ Credit Card ___ (for Credit Card payment please fill out info in back)

Please make checks payable to the: GOMSF Church Music Federation

Mail completed form with enclosed check(s) to:

2017 Church Music Conference
c/o Costa Kourtis
1645 Clark Ave #115
Long Beach, CA 90815

Office Use

Date Rec'd _____

Am't Rec'd _____

Check No. _____

If interested, please select one of the following breakout sessions:

- A. Conducting Techniques with Dr. Tikey Zes _____
- B. Working with a Youth Choir and Young Voices with Ms. Kathy Meck _____

***"no gender mixing is permitted in the dormitories and only families, married couples, or two registrants of same gender may share a lodge room"
(per St. Nicholas Ranch Regulations)***

Instructions for Filling Out the Registration Form

1. This year's registration fee includes accommodations and all meals.
2. There are two types of accommodations at the St. Nicholas Ranch: the Lodge rooms and the dormitories:
 - a. Dormitory rooms have single beds. Bed linens and towels are provided for each guest. Dormitories have shared bathrooms with a private restroom and shower facilities. Rooms are individually climate controlled. *There are separate dormitories for men and women.*
 - b. Each Lodge room has two beds and a private bathroom. It can accommodate a married couple, or two adults of same gender, or a family with small children (double occupancy).
 - c. A single person can occupy a Lodge room exclusively for an additional charge of \$120.00 (\$485 total - single occupancy).
3. For Lodge room stay double occupancy, information for both registrants must be entered in the same Registration Form and payment be submitted for both registrants (one or two checks OK).
4. For dormitory stay or Lodge single occupancy, each registrant must fill his or her own Registration Form and include the appropriate payment.

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

Please check one: MC ___ VISA ___ DISCOVER ___ AMEX ___

Credit Card Number _____

Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____ Billing Address Zip Code _____

Name as it appears on the Credit Card: _____

Cardholder Signature _____ Date _____

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE 2017

Thursday, August 24, 2017

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TIME	TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION
4:00 p.m.	Check In/Registration		
5:30 p.m.	Relax poolside		Pool
6:00 p.m.	Dinner		Dining Room
7:30 p.m.	Poolside Singalong		Pool

Friday, August 25, 2017

TIME	TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION
8:00 a.m.	Orthros	Clergy	St. Photini Chapel
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast		Dining Hall
9:30 a.m.	Federation Business Mtg	Liz Levy	Saint Peter Conference Room
9:30 a.m.	Check In/Registration		
9:30 am	Ranch tour for Non-delegates	Staff	Meet in Dining Hall
12:00 p.m.	Lunch		Dining Hall
1:00 p.m.	Welcome	Liz Levy, Pres., and Michael Pappas, Exe. Dir. St. Nicholas Ranch	Saint Peter Conference Room
1:15 – 2:00 p.m.	“Music Ministry in the Orthodox Church: Theology & Spirituality”	Dr. John Klentos	Saint Peter Conference Room
2:15 - 3:15 p.m.	Byzantine Chant Basics	John Boyer	Saint Peter Conference Room
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	Breakout - Conducting Techniques (advance sign up only)	Dr. Tikey Zes	<i>Saint Paul Conference Room</i>
2:15 – 3:15 p.m.	Breakout – Working with a Youth Choir and Young Voices (advance sign up only)	Kathy Meck	Faith and Heritage Center Conference Room
3:30 - 4:30 p.m.	"Why we worship the way we do"	Dr. Eve Tibbs	Saint Peter Conference Room
5:00 p.m.	Poolside reception		Pool
6:00 pm	Dinner		Dining Hall
8:00 p.m.	Campfire Singalong and Smores		Fire Pit

Saturday, August 26, 2017

TIME	TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION
8:00 a.m.	Orthros	Clergy	St. Photini Chapel
8:30 a.m.	Breakfast		Dining Hall
9:30 -10:30 a.m.	Music for Liturgy	Dr. Tikey Zes	Faith & Heritage Center Gallery
10:45 -11:45 p.m.	All Aboard the Vocal Train	Michele Patzakis	Saint Peter Conference Room
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch and Awards		Dining Hall
2:30 pm Mandatory dress requirements to tour Monastery:	Tour of Monastery Women: Long sleeves, long skirts, head scarf	Men: Long sleeves & long pants.	Monastery gift shop – Cash & checks ONLY
4:00 p.m.	Vespers		Monastery
6:00 p.m.	Dinner and Awards		Dining Hall
8:30 p.m.	Glendi under the stars		Patio

Sunday, August 27, 2017

TIME	TITLE	FACILITATOR	LOCATION
9:00 a.m.	Orthros		Saint Photini Chapel
10:00 a.m.	Divine Liturgy	Choir Photo	Saint Photini Chapel
12:00 p.m.	Brunch		Dining Hall

It's Nomination Time Again! George N. George & Katherine Trapp Awards

This year's Church Music Conference will take place at St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA.

It's that time again to think of those individuals in our choirs and music ministries worthy of recognition.

The George N. George Award is given to choir members with a long history of service to our choirs.

The Katherine Trapp Award recognizes youth musicians who have given their musical talent to glorify The Lord.

Think real hard, dig down deep, and come up with some deserving individuals to receive these wonderful awards.

The deadline is Saturday August 12, 2017. Don't forget to include a nice biography and justification for your nominee. Your parish priest and choir director must sign the application to qualify for the award.

Applications are included in this mailing as well as on the website. Return completed applications to: Dr. Chris Vitakes, 1353 "C" Street Hayward CA. 94541.

By email: cmvitakes@sbcglobal.net By FAX: 510-317-1864

Looking forward to seeing all of you at St. Nicholas Ranch August 24 – 27, 2017!

Chris Vitakes, awards committee chair person, 510-825-9105

Membership Chairman Report **Dues and Stewardship 2016-17**

As of May 29, 2017 the Federation has received parish dues from 16 parishes for adult music programs and 4 parishes for youth music programs totaling \$1340. Stewardship has been received from or on behalf of 152 individuals totaling \$4770, averaging \$31.83 each.

Listserv and Website

All available information for the 2017 Summer Conference is included in this mailing as well as on the web site.

If you have a change in your parish priests, choir director, choir members, chanters, Sunday school director or other individual who is either a church musician or who interacts with the church music program, please send their contact information to Mario DiGiovanni at mnkdigi@comcast.net. Our communication effort is both push and pull. While you can pull information from the federation web site on your own we can't push information out to you via e-mail or US mail unless we know who you are.

Church Music Institutes

Two successful Church Music Institutes were given this past liturgical year. One was in Belmont at Holy Cross Church on October 22, 2016 and the other in Long Beach at Assumption Church on Saturday, February 11, 2017. Father Salmas (Holy Cross) and Father Kanakis (Assumption) gave brief and useful talks on the "Sira" (order) of the Liturgy and the changes required for the feast days of our church. A brief session on vocal and choral techniques followed. After a delicious lunch there was a read-through of the changes required for Palm Sunday. The chant versions were supplied by Dr. Theodore Bogdanos and the part versions by Dr. Tikey Zes. The CMI ended with a student evaluation.

Next liturgical year, 2017-2018, the CMI topic will be "The Eight Resurrectional Apolytikia" (Tu Lithu, etc.), in both Greek and English. Host parishes and dates have yet to be determined.



GEORGE N. GEORGE SERVICE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Primary Intent: To reward the many deserving church musicians within the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Church Music Federation for their past and present dedication and support.

Selection: Nominees can be selected by each parish in consultation with the choir/parish music director, choir members, priest and other appropriate individuals. Each parish may submit no more than three nominees for this award. The award will be given at the Summer Conference, which will take place at St. Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap California.

Deadline: Submissions must be RECEIVED by **Saturday August 12, 2017** and must be sent to: Dr. Chris Vitakes, 1353 C St., Hayward, CA 94541, email at: cmvitakes@sbcglobal.net or FAX by the deadline to 510-317-1864.

ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PRIEST. Any forms received after the deadline, not properly signed, or including more than three nominees will not be considered. If necessary, additional paper(s) can be used to provide information on your nominees; however, this form, properly signed, must accompany any additional materials submitted.

Note: If you have previously submitted a name that has not been selected, you can resubmit the nominee; however, you must provide complete information each year.

PARISH: _____

PARISH CITY: _____

NOMINEE #1 _____ YRS OF SERVICE _____

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (use additional sheet(s) if necessary)

NOMINEE #2 _____ YRS OF SERVICE _____

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (use additional sheet(s) if necessary)

NOMINEE #3 _____ YRS OF SERVICE _____

NOTEWORTHY ACCOMPLISHMENTS (use additional sheet(s) if necessary)

Submitted By: (**signatures required**)

Choir/Parish Music Director: _____ Date: _____

Parish Priest: _____ Date: _____



KATHERINE TRAPP YOUTH MUSICIAN AWARD

Primary Intent: Katherine "Kathy" Trapp enthusiastically and lovingly served as our Federation's first Youth Music Specialist. She not only taught how young people learn to sing our beautiful tradition, she taught youth to love it! Her legacy lives on today through the youth musicians and youth music educators she so fervently guided.

You are encouraged to nominate a youth musician from your parish to receive the Katherine Trapp Youth Musician Award. This person will demonstrate a deep love for the music of the Orthodox Tradition through participation musically in the services (playing organ, chanting, singing in choir, or enthusiastically learning the music of the services while attending them).

Selection Criteria: Age 8-18; Nominated by Parish Priest and one of the following: Choir Director, Youth Choir Director, Organist, Sunday School Teacher or Protopsaltai.

Deadline: Submissions must be RECEIVED no later than Saturday, August 12, 2017 and must be sent to:
Dr. Chris Vitakes, 1353 C Street, Hayward, CA 94541, email at: cmvitakes@sbcglobal.net or Fax to 707 745-1995.

ALL NOMINATION FORMS MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PRIEST. Any forms received after the deadline, not properly signed, or including more than three nominees will not be considered. If necessary, additional paper can be used to provide information on your nominees; however, this form, properly signed, must accompany any additional materials submitted.

YOUTH MUSICIAN NAME: _____ AGE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____

PARISH: _____

PARISH CITY: _____

.....
YOUR NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

PARISH: _____

PARISH CITY: _____

.....
Submitted By: *(signatures required)*

Parish Priest: _____

Date: _____

Choir/Parish Music Director: _____

Date: _____

The In-Choir-Er

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Greek Orthodox Metropolis of
San Francisco
Church Music Federation
sanfran.churchmusic.goarch.org

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News From The Pews

Anaheim, California

St. John the Baptist

St. John's choir had a wonderful and busy year. In January, **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos** celebrated the feast day of our patron saint, St. John the Baptist, with us. The choir participated during the Hierarchical Great Vespers on Friday evening, January 6th and Feast Day Saturday morning, January 7th.

On January 19th, we celebrated our annual tradition of cutting of the vasilopita after choir practice. As always, **Katerina Tseherides** baked a delicious vasilopita and the church recieved the piece with the coin.

We are excited to announce that our choir has grown. Our newest choir members are **Steve and Stacia Counelis, Joshua Steube, Sophia Konugres, Rania Giannakos-Ariqat, Elefteria Konstantarakis and Penny Foskaris.**

Our choir attended the CMI in Long Beach and received the award for the most choir members in attendance. It was a great experience and opportunity for us to be directed by **Dr. Tikey Zes.** Our choir director **Elsa Libowitz** had the pleasure of accompanying Dr. Zes. What a great honor that was for Elsa and for us!

Elsa, our choir director has been spending a lot of time on musical techniques at our rehearsals and she constantly introduces us to new music pieces. We truly appreciate all the time and effort Elsa puts into

our choir and it shows on Sundays when we sing.

Congratulations to **Nick and Electra Christ** on celebrating their



90th birthdays and still singing in our choir every Sunday. May they enjoy many more birthdays to come!

In May, the choir members volunteered and diligently worked at our annual church festival. Our members worked in the Information Booth, headed by **Liz Hadjis**, the Loukoumades Booth, headed by **Raza Kitsigianis**, Greek Coffee, headed by **Katerina Tseherides** and in the food service areas. Elsa played the organ during the church tours.

We are excited and welcome **Constantine Trumpower** and his lovely family to our parish. Constantine will be our assistant priest once he gets ordained. Constantine's ordination to the priesthood will take place the weekend of August 5th and 6th. We wish him all the very best as he starts his new journey.

Wishing all a wonderful and relaxing summer. We will be seeing all of our choir friends throughout the Metropolis at the Annual Choir Conference at St. Nicholas Ranch in August. We are looking forward to this weekend.

Belmont, California

Holy Cross

We are thrilled to have eight young people singing in our choir, as well as two of their moms! This was the first year that we expanded the choir to include more students, allowing them to attend special rehearsals on Sundays rather than weeknight rehearsals with the full choir. It has been a joy to see the young singers learn the music of the church and sing so beautifully on Sundays.

Congratulations to the 2017 recipient of the Holy Cross Choir Scholarship Award, **Christian Canellos**. Christian just completed his junior year in high school, sings tenor and solos with the choir, and has been in the choir for six years. Last year's recipient, **Jonna Hohenthal**, just graduated from high school and will head to the University of Washington. We wish her the best!

Axios to our newly-ordained assistant priest, **Fr. Tom Felactu, Presvytera Tina**, and their kids, **Ody** and **Sophia**. Our parish hosted Fr. Tom's ordination to the priesthood on May 28, and the choir presented gifts as well as a special song for them, "Bring It On, Father Tom!" to the tune of John Denver's "Take Me Home, Country Roads." We're thrilled to have them in our parish!

As we do once a year, we recently sang during a liturgy at Stanford Memorial Church for Orthodox students at Stanford. The liturgy was celebrated by our pastor, **Fr. Peter Salmas**, and assisted by then-Deacon Father Tom Felactu.

Our Sunday School students continue to sing several hymns during liturgy three times a year. **Eva Canellos** teaches them the hymns. The kids also sing hymns and carols at the Christmas Program.

This summer, we'll have our traditional barbecue and begin working on hymns to sing during the Belmont Greek Festival on Labor Day Weekend. Many thanks to our fearless leaders, Director **Chris Canellos**, and organist **Karen Hutchinson**!

Concord, California

St. Demetrios

Our choir conductor, **Anthony Doherty**, has

arranged two new SAB English-text settings of the Cherubic Hymn (Cherubic Hymn "Aghia Sophia"; Cherubic Hymn "Zoodhohos Pighi"). They are now available either in printed octavo or licensed download from Swirly Music. The full scores can be viewed on the website (swirlymusic.org).

Long Beach, California

Assumption

Assumption Long Beach's new choir director, **Jerry McMillan**, joined the choir in October, 2016, along with his wife, **Susan**. Both Jerry and Susan are accomplished vocal musicians who are members of **The Pacific Chorale** and **The Festival Singers**, respectively.

Although it has been quite a year for Jerry and Susan coming to Assumption as non-orthodox, non-Greeks, and non-Greek speakers, it's also been a wonderful one as well.

Jerry says, "We've felt tremendously welcomed, both by the choir and the church community as a whole. Working with the choir has presented some challenges, with learning a new language and liturgical style, and with the choir getting used to working with me. Fortunately, we have a common language in music, and a common desire to more richly add to the worship environment of the liturgy. We've grown a lot together, and I look forward to many more great strides in the future."

The Assumption Choir is grateful that Jerry accepted the challenge of being the director, and looks forward to another productive year. The choir will be on hiatus through the summer months and will return to the choir loft after the Labor Day weekend.

Pasadena, California

St. Anthony

The Saint Anthony Choir of Pasadena, California extends greetings to all parish choirs throughout the San Francisco Metropolis.

On Saturday, February 11th, eight of our choir members attended a Church Music Institute held at Assumption Church in Long Beach, California. **Father Christos Kanakis** gave a presentation on "The Order

of the Divine Liturgy and the Changes in Propers due to Feast Days. This discussion was followed by a musical rehearsal conducted by **Dr. Tikey Zes**, music minister for the San Francisco Metropolis Music Federation. Arrangements for hymns traditionally sung on Palm Sunday were provided and rehearsed by the assembly. This topic and the music reviewed were much appreciated as our choir's repertoire for this particular feast day was in need of updating and enhancement.

On Sunday, February 26, **Metropolitan Nikitas of the Dardanelles** brought relics of many saints and celebrated a Hierarchical Divine Liturgy here at Saint Anthony. Our choir was pleased to provide the special musical accompaniment associated with the Hierarchical Liturgy.

Our members wish to extend condolences to our fellow chorister **George Babbes** on the passing of his dear father **Spiro Babbes**, a 53 year resident of San Leandro, California, who departed this life on March 14. May his memory be eternal.

The choir was very involved during this past Lenten season as we sang for each of the Salutation and the Akathist Hymn services on the five Fridays prior to Holy Week. We also sang the Hymn of Kassiani on Holy Tuesday evening, as well as the Lamentations on Good Friday evening. This year, as our parish was honored to host **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos** for a Holy Saturday morning Hierarchical Liturgy, the choir participated in this service, in addition to the Anastasi service on Holy Saturday evening.

On Sunday May 21, upon completion of the customary warm-up prior to the liturgy, our choir was thrilled to learn that one of our dedicated sopranos, **Georgia Loutsos** and her husband **John** are expecting a baby boy in December of this year. Congratulations to Georgia, John, and Yiayia-to-be **Anna**! Our loft is filled with honorary Theas and Theos who await the birth with eager anticipation!

With the weekly climb to the choir loft providing excellent physical therapy, we are pleased to report good progress in the recuperation from recent orthopedic procedures by two of our dedicated sopranos, **Athena Dallas** and **Tina Athans**. Keep up

the good work ladies!! You should be at 100 percent in time for an action-packed summer!

We wish to congratulate our chanter, **Mr. Patrick Lynch**, on his impending marriage to **Ms. Katerina Therianos** of Denver, Colorado. The wedding took place on the first of July at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Denver. The happy couple will reside in Pasadena, California and we look forward to welcoming Katerina into the Saint Anthony community and our choir family. "Ke sta stephana me to kalo!!"

Because of our choir's tradition of welcoming guest choristers, we wish to thank **Judie Christopoulos, Elias Kalivas, Tom Bouras, Helen Evangelatos, Nick Perdaris** and **Katerina Therianos**, who all have the knack of dropping in just at the right time to help us put our best musical foot forward when it is needed the most. We do have a remarkable camaraderie in the choir loft at Saint Anthony, and we wish all church musicians in the Metropolis a wonderful, restful, exciting and safe summer.

San Diego, California

St. Spyridon

What a busy and wonderful year we've enjoyed here in San Diego. Our choir is growing, as we have added four new members in the past few months. Our youth music program continues to thrive, and we often have a dozen or so young people singing with us in the Sunday liturgy. Our 50 member youth choir worked hard preparing for FDF, where they sang the Hierarchical Liturgy and won Third Place in Division II. Our director, **Kathy Meck**, received the Choral Director Award for Division II.

Things got truly busy in December, as we were pleased to joyfully celebrate our feast day on December 12 with **Metropolitan Gerasimos**. Then with the support of generous benefactors of the parish, we presented a festive Christmas concert on December 16th in our hall, with risers, a baby grand, and a gorgeous tree decorated by our Philoptochos. Joined by our youth choir, we sang a mix of sacred and secular music. The children's rendering of the whimsical song, "Fruit Cake" was a crowd pleaser. The evening ended with a bountiful reception coordinated by the creative **Diana Fowler**.

Theophany followed close behind as we enjoyed having **His Grace, Bishop Apostolos** join us for liturgy and a sunny day at the harbor for our annual Cross Dive and luncheon. A beautiful Lenten season unfolded with beloved hymns leading to another moving Holy Week and Pascha.

Our hearts were broken this May, when our beloved soprano, **Helen Platis**, fell asleep in the Lord peacefully in her home. Helen was our humble diva and example of a joyful woman of great faith and talent. Words cannot say how dearly she will be missed.

Another summer is ahead with our usual super fun fundraising **Padres** baseball games at the amazing, world class Petco Park. We extend a warm welcome to any travelers in the Metropolis to come sing with us as we are “up and running” all summer long! Our beloved old loft is scheduled for an upcoming remodel—come to see the before and after. And of course, we are looking forward to getting together with you at St. Nicholas Ranch in August.

San Francisco, California

Holy Trinity

We have been pleased to occasionally have numerous young adults join us upstairs. Especially pleased when one of them, **Christian Geifertd**, turned out to be a tenor. Can't tell you how many years (except for a short interval) that we've been tenorless.

Congratulations to **Pons Materum** who earned his medical doctor degree and is in the process of applying for residencies.

We think you will understand our excitement about parish plans to install an elevator soon. It is two long flights from our hall, where we practice on Sunday mornings, to the choir loft. I am almost out of breath thinking and writing this! The elevator will go from the hall to the sanctuary and then on to the choir loft.

Some of us are looking forward to seeing our counterparts at the summer conference at St. Nicholas Ranch. We are excited with the break in the usual conference formula.

San Jose, California

St. Nicholas

This has been rather a quiet year for the San Jose St. Nicholas choir. We of course sang for the Sunday Liturgy and had our weekly rehearsals. These were enlivened by multiple small changes made to our music to more closely adhere to the strictly Byzantine form now being introduced in a class by Father **Demosthenes**.

We sang for a wedding and the yearly Christmas Pageant given by the Church School. We also sang for the church tour at the St. Nicholas Festival in June and some of us participated in the much enjoyed Belmont Folk Song Group at their festival. Also, to our delight, we gained three more members, sopranos **Madeline Harper** and **Michelle Crowe**, as well as a much needed bass, **Chris Vurnis**.

Dr. Tikey Zes acted as guest conductor at the annual conference of the Denver Metropolis of Church Musicians held in May while our organist and psalti, **Steve Parsons**, was invited to be their guest organist.

Several of our more talented members are members of outside choral groups, thus testifying to the level of talent with which we are blessed. **Diane Mathios**, one of our solo sopranos, sings with the Stanford Symphonic Chorus. **Madeline Harper**, also a solo soprano, sings with the Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale while tenor **Tony Mezilis** performs with the Bay Choral Guild.

On a less talented level, alto **Cathleen Capogeannis**, at the grand old age of eighty, is crooning Irish lullabies to her very first grandchild!

Winter Business Meeting

We enjoyed the warm hospitality of Father Christos Kanakis and the Philoptochos of The Assumption of the Virgin Mary church in Long Beach on January 28, 2017. Fifteen people from eight parishes attended and we enjoyed sharing the accomplishments and challenges in our parishes and across the Metropolis, as we began the initial thinking and planning for our 2017 Summer Conference. Thanks to Marilyne Coats for the planning and organization of this enjoyable and informative time together.