

January 2022

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION MINISTRY



THE *Grace* NOTE
YOUR MID-MONTHLY DIGEST OF CHURCH MUSIC NEWS



PROVIDING THE BEST RESOURCES TO OUR PARISHES

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A
Note
**FROM YOUR
MINISTRY
CHAIR**



Dear Metropolis church musicians,

Wishing you, your loved ones, and your parishes a blessed 2022! As we head into this fresh calendar year, which seems to be already clouded with uncertainty and conflict, it's good to remember that Christ's Kingdom is timeless, that His love for us is as just as boundless and sure as it was in the founding of the universe, and we are His dear children. Although I turned 75 this past November, it often helps me to recall that this is how God looks at us, and it can be beautiful to look at one another in the same way.

The Ministry is continuing to build on our "Returning Strong in Faith, Skill, and Purpose" plan with upcoming initiatives that we are excitedly preparing to reveal in the February newsletter, so please stay tuned! Meanwhile, please enjoy this round-up of good things from the end of 2021.

In His love,

Kay Harkins, Ministry Chair

You Can Still See AND HEAR THIS AMAZING HYMN



In case you missed it, you can still enjoy the YouTube video of this gorgeous hymn in English, “The God Before All Ages” recorded by The Orthodox Christian Choral Fellowship under the direction of Father Michael Pallad. Performed by singers from across the country, premiered on Christmas Eve of 2021, and is worth hearing again and again.

**View Video on
YouTube**

Father Michael’s arrangement of this hymn is based on the traditional Christmas Kontakion by St. Romanos the Melodist of the 6th century. The sheet music is available at the OCCF website.

**OCCF
Website**

Returning Strong, *Faith First!*



Parish Music Leaders Build Strength In the Liturgy of the Church

On December 15, 2021, a strong cohort of Metropolis Parish Music Leaders completed the Liturgics I course from the St. John Koukouzelis Institute of Byzantine Arts. The course represented the first initiative of our year-long program, “Returning Strong in Faith, Skill, and Purpose.” Beginning at the end of September, choir and chant directors from six states met on Wednesday evenings to immerse themselves in liturgical literacy, as well as the cycles, elements, levels, order, and content of the Divine Liturgy, Vespers, and Matins.

Each participant came away with heightened awareness, respect, and understanding of role of music in supporting the fabric of worship in the church and the desire to share this knowledge with the church musicians in their parishes to create stronger bonds between the parish priest, church musicians, and the faithful. Person after person mentioned how many new and meaningful things they discovered about these divine services.

Participants reported that the course filled in many gaps in their knowledge and encouraged them to continue to study all the liturgical services and rubrics of the church. Of particular value to them was being able to dialogue with the instructor and other students in congenial, spirited discussion and to have many of their questions answered in a helpful and open context.

A wonderful outcome was the way we were able to learn from one another how the music of our faith is being practiced across the Metropolis, and how we are persevering in the face of so many obstacles. The impressive final projects of the participants were a highlight of the course.

Liturgics III, The Sacraments, will be offered tuition free by the Institute on Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:30 PST, beginning the last week of January. We encourage you to take advantage of this incredible opportunity to strengthen your knowledge and skill as a true Orthodox church musician.

[Catalog](#)

Be sure to send us your news!

Share photos and stories of how your parish music program is rebuilding.
(And let us know any ways we may help!)

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