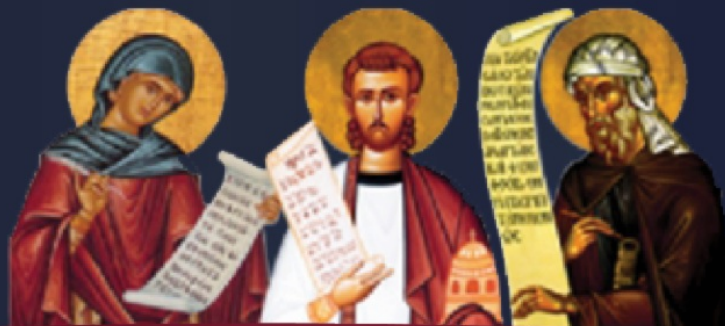


Holiday 2023

GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO  
**CHURCH MUSIC FEDERATION MINISTRY**



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO



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



PROVIDING THE BEST RESOURCES TO OUR PARISHES

**SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWS AND UPDATES**

THROUGH THE SEASON OF  
**Nativity to the  
Blessing of the Waters,**

MAY THE *Lord*  
bless our days of fasting  
and feasting.



*Peace, Joy, and Love  
to all our parish musicians!*

A MESSAGE FROM  
METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS  
OF SAN FRANCISCO



Beloved Church Musicians,

***“O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!”***

This beautiful season of the Nativity prepares us to celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It is in this joyful spirit I extend my warmest greetings and gratitude to each one of you, for your dedication to the sacred music of our Greek Orthodox Church is a precious gift.

During this time of year, the familiar Christmas carol “**O Come, All Ye Faithful**” resounds in our hearts and homes. It reminds us of the journey that took place in Bethlehem over two thousand years ago—a journey that led the Wise Men and shepherds to the humble manger to worship the newborn King.

In a similar manner, each of us is called to undertake a spiritual journey in our hearts. We are called to make our way to Bethlehem, not in the physical sense, but through prayer, reflection, and worship. We are called to encounter the Christ Child and offer Him the gift of our hearts.

As church musicians, you play a vital role in facilitating this encounter. Your voices and talents are instruments of praise that uplift our congregations as we worship together in our Divine Services. Please continue your important efforts as church musicians for the beauty of our liturgical music enhances our worship experience and deepens our connection to our faith. It is a sacred responsibility that requires dedication and continuous growth.

I am profoundly grateful for all that you offer to our Metropolis as church musicians. Your commitment to serving our parishes through music enriches our spiritual lives and strengthens our bond as one body in Christ.

As we approach the celebration of Christ’s birth, may your voices rise in joyful anticipation, and may your music inspire all who hear it. May the grace of the newborn King fill your hearts and homes with love, peace, and abundant blessings.

With Love in the Newborn King,

  
**✠ Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco**

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# COMING IN THE NEW YEAR!

Creating a Space for Community...

*Parish Music Leaders' Jam!*



Join your hosts Ross Ritterman and Kay Harkins for a monthly one-hour on-line get together for Parish Music Leaders across the Metropolis to make connections, share ideas, and encourage one another.

*Sponsored by the Church Music Development Team and Communications and Outreach Team.*

**Watch for dates, times, and details!**



Need to take a new look at music for the upcoming year? Hoping to expand your music program? Have a goal that you'd like to do some brainstorming about? Could you use a workshop to inspire and motivate your church musicians or your whole parish?

Your music ministry is ready to be at your service for on-line consultation or in-person workshop planning. Reach out to us any time!

Email [sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:sfchurchmusic@sanfran.goarch.org)



**Please join us for our annual  
Annunciation Greek Orthodox Christmas Concert  
and hosted Reception**

*(no admission charge)*

**Sunday, December 17, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church  
600 Alhambra Blvd. • Sacramento, CA 95816

*Reception following the Concert*  
Hellenic Hall • 616 Alhambra Blvd.

*This concert is dedicated to the blessed memory of George E. Johnson II*

Please bring an unwrapped toy in a gift bag for a child in need (coloring books, fidget spinners, art supplies, puzzles, educational games, comic books)

Sponsored by the Hellenic Heroes Toy Drive

**No news is ... no news!**

We would love to share stories and photos from your parish. Items sent by the last week of the month will be featured in the next month's issue of our Grace Note. Can't wait to see and hear what's been happening with you.

Email Us

**Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco**  
Church Music Federation Ministry

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