



Saint Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

February-March 2017 Bulletin

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The Falling Asleep in the Lord of the V. Rev. A. Photius Pentikis

It is with joyful sorrow that the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco announces the passing of V. Rev. A. Photius Pentikis, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 25, 2017 at the age of 94 years old. Father Photius enjoyed a full and rich life and ministry, living alone until more recent months when his health began to fail rapidly.

“Father Photius was a devoted servant of the Lord for nearly 70 years, always maintaining the highest standards for his priesthood in the many parishes he served,” noted His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. “I had the opportunity to be with Father Photius this past September and was always uplifted his genuine spirit.”

Father Photius was born in Fort Worth, Texas on July 16, 1922 to his parents James and Thespina, and lived there with his family until he completed high school. He was the second to the youngest of 13 siblings, all of whom predeceased him. He enrolled in Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School in Pomfret, Connecticut and was ordained in 1948. Father Photius also studied at the historic Halki Theological Seminary in Turkey, and served as Deacon to the late Patriarch Athenagoras.

He served numerous parishes in the west including: Holy Trinity in Portland, OR; Holy Trinity in Phoenix, AZ; Saint Nicholas in Northridge, CA; Assumption in Seattle, WA; Saint Spyridon in San Diego, CA; Saints Constantine and Helen in Honolulu, HI; Saint Nicholas in San Jose, CA; and Saint Sophia in Bellingham, WA. Father Photius was always conscientious in his ministry, and devoted of himself unselfishly for the spiritual edification of the faithful he served.

A voracious reader, Father Photius’ home was filled with books and he was always eager to learn. He was also a prolific writer and has many unpublished works including extensive synopses on the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, the Epistles of Peter, James and John and the Book of Revelation.

Father Photius never wanted any recognition for his years of devoted service to the Greek Orthodox Church. Though he was hesitant to agree, the parish of Saint Sophia in Bellingham was planning to recognize him during the weekend of Sunday of Orthodoxy in March 2017 during a forthcoming visit by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco.

Since his retirement, Father Photius resided in Bellingham, WA and was blessed to have the care and friendship of Rev. Father Mel Gimmaka from Saint Innocent Antiochian Orthodox Church in Everson, WA, along with his family, with whom he formed a very close bond for the past 20 years.

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos presides at the funeral service for Fr. Photios Pentikis, along with His Grace Bishop Apostolos of Medeia and several clergy and numerous faithful Orthodox Christians and members Bellingham community at large. Photos collected by Fr. Mel and Carole Gimmaka. Bottom right: His Eminence delivers the eulogy.





His Eminence Metropolitan Sotirios of Toronto and Canada presides at the Trisagion service for Fr. Photios along with clergy from Vancouver, Seattle and California.



Fr. Chris Margaritis (left) returned to St. Sophia to chant at the funeral service for Fr. Pentikis. Also chanting: Fr. M. Prevas, Proistamenos of St. Nicholas Church in Northridge, CA, the first parish where Fr. Pentikis served in the 1940s and 50s. Also pictured: Nikos Adamopoulos and Dionysios Ingraham.



Fr. Mel Gimmaka of the St. Innocent Parish in Everson delivered the eulogy for his long-time friend Fr. Pentikis.



Fr. Pentikis after the Baptism of Alex Moularas



**The V. Rev. A.
Photius Pentikis**
1922-2017
*May his memory be
Eternal!*



Fr. Pentikis famously walking around the Bellingham neighborhoods



**STATEMENT FROM HIS EMINENCE
ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS
OF AMERICA**

***On Hostility, Violence, War and the Love of
the Stranger***

As Greek Orthodox Christians and as Americans, we express our sadness and pain for our brothers and sisters all over the world who find themselves in tragic circumstances of hostility, violence and war, where families have been torn apart, displaced and where people are denied basic human rights.

Following the example of Christ, we are called to offer unconditional love to our fellow men while starting immediately to pray for them. In our great country, which has historically and practically welcomed people of every nation, tribe, and tongue, we have the distinct privilege and honor to offer *philoxenia* – love of the stranger – to humans from all walks of life.

The New Testament is replete with an ethos of *philoxenia* – love of the stranger – based not on fear but on care and on gratitude. *Welcome one another*, says Saint Paul in his letter to the Romans, *even as Christ welcomed you* (Rom. 15:7).

Christian *philoxenia* must not only be extended to those close to us, but must be extended to those near and far away, and even to those who will not reciprocate—to the poor, the stranger, even those who hate us. For Christ says, *if you love only those who love you, what credit is that to you?* (Luke 14:14).

As a vital expression of love, we must continue to fervently pray for peace for the entire humanity, especially for those affected by difficult circumstances. Our fellow humans who are suffering under terrible conditions and ordeals all over the world are expecting justice and begging for our love and prayers; even the least among them. As Christ said, *Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me* (Matt. 25:40). In these most difficult times, the strongest expression of our *philoxenia* becomes a very urgent matter.

United as one people, as one nation under God, let us proceed courageously, prudently, and lovingly. Always with the help of the Almighty God!



IMPORTANT PARISH DATES

- Sun. Feb. 19th Meatfare Sunday - Potluck
- Sun. Feb. 26th Cheesefare Sunday; Forgiveness Vespers
- Mon. Feb. 27th GREAT LENT BEGINS
- Sat. Mar. 4th Saturday of Souls Liturgy
- Sun. Mar. 5th Sunday of Orthodoxy- Procession of Icons; bring your icon
- Fri. Mar. 24th - Evening Great Vespers for Annunciation
- Sat. Mar. 25th- Annunciation/Evangelismos
- Sat. Apr. 8th Saturday of Lazarus - Palm Cross Tying
- Sun. April 9th PALM SUNDAY - Luncheon
- April 9-16th HOLY WEEK
- Sun. Apr. 16th GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA; Agape Vespers; Community Picnic at Hovander Park



To the St Sophia community:

Thank you very much for your support in sending me to the Metropolis Sisterhood of Presvyteres Annual Retreat at St. Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, on Jan 20!

Twenty two Presvyteras from our Metropolis met together for spiritual refreshment, fellowship, and continuing education. Our speaker was Fr Evan Armatas, whom you can listen to at Ancient Faith Radio, on his call in radio show, Orthodoxy Live. (He is also a seminary classmate of Fr. Michael, and our son's godfather.) The ladies had a wonderful time and went back to their home parishes refreshed. As President of the sisterhood, I was very pleased to be part of this wonderful event. Thank you!

Presvytera Elizabeth



St. Sophia Field Trip to the All Merciful Saviour Monastery on Vashon Island. On Feb. 11th, parishioners received generous hospitality from Abbot Tryphon and the brothers, enjoyed the beautiful monastery grounds and received counsel from the abbot.



George Grow being baptized. Feb. 4th, 2017. He is the son of Forest and Holly Grow. Godparents: John & Leann Grow.



Congratulations to Mason Clegg, who as baptized on Dec. 24th, 2016. He took St. Efsthemios as his patron saint. Tammy Stavropoulos & Dionysios Ingraham were his godparents.



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

It is a new year and we Philoptochos are still involved in the great works of philanthropy.

Our fundraiser for KIDS N' CANCER NW was very successful and our donation was the most we have ever donated. Many thanks to all who attended and contributed. It was a wonderful evening.

Our bake sale last November was successful and our Christmas Tea in December is one to remember. Many thanks to Dee Piantes for chairing this wonderful event. We donated baby food to the food bank and gave educational toys to the local Bridgit-Collins. We had a very special concert by the Bellingham men's chorus. The weather was a detriment to many and sadly attendance was lower than in the past.

Due to snow, our Philoptochos meeting is rescheduled to February 19th. We will wear red and have our photo taken to send to the PHILOPTOCHOS WITNESS newspaper as this is "Wear Red Month" for fighting heart disease for women.

The Vasilopita auction was very successful and many thanks to our talented auctioneer, George Mansour, who brought the dollar amount higher than last year. Proceeds were sent to St. Basil's Academy.

Membership to 2017 Philoptochos is now open and we invite all to join us in our philanthropic endeavors. Membership is \$40.00 and we are looking forward to a very exciting year.

In Christ,

Harieklia Meras-Bryant, president
 Dorine Boulos, vice president
 Nahla Gholam, secretary
 Elizabeth Morgan, treasurer

Coffee Hour Schedule

February, March and April

- 2/19, MEATFARE SUNDAY-- Eleni Zourkos and Nia Zourkos
- 2/26 CHEESEFARE SUNDAY (No meat please) --Cristina Gholam and Nadia Boulos
- 3/5 Marina Polichronakis and Eleni Pantoleon
- 3/12 Georgia Sentkowski and Cheryl Lallas
- 3/19 Boulos Family Memorial
- 3/26 Voula Parks, Loree Foote, and Jaimee Twining
- 4/2 Evelyn Lallas and Tula Trames
- 4/9 Palm Sunday lunch--Parish Council
- 4/16 Easter Picnic
- 4/23 Yanolla Boulos and Nahla Gholam
- 4/30 Salome Wolters and Elizabeth Morgan
- 5/7 Effie Bachelor and Francine Tsoulouhas
- 5/14 Ibtissam Mansour and Angelina Moussi
- 5/21 Dorine Boulos and Marie Boulos
- 5/28 Mary Hulbush, Dena Lien, and Cherie Webster



Prosphoro Baker Schedule

for February, March and April

- 2/19-- Sue Moyer (4)
- 2/26--Tasia Tsoulouhas (4)
- 3/5-- Tamara Mattson (4)
- 3/12-- Christos Christoforou (4)
- 3/19-- Brooksana Raney (6)
- 3/26-- Tervo Family (4)
- 4/2-- Kim Weil (4)
- 4/9-- Sue Moyer (4); Tasia Tsoulouhas (4) HOLY WEEK
- 4/16-- Adrienne Hunter (6)
- PASCHA
- 4/23--Tamara Mattson (4)
- 4/30-- Brooksana Raney (4)
- 5/7-- Christos Christoforou (3)
- 5/14-- Sue Moyer (4)
- 5/21--Adrienne Hunter (4)
- 5/28-- Tasia Tsoulouhas (4)

St. Sophia Greek Orthodox Church

510 E. Sunset Dr. Bellingham, WA 98225

**FEBRUARY-
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2017
MONTHLY BULLETIN**



The 2017 St. Sophia Parish Council

The following were elected to the parish council for a two year term: **Dena Lien, Brooksana Raney, Elizabeth Morgan and Gabriella Boulos.** They will join **Bryant Mattson, Georgia Sentkowski and Christos Christoforou.** The parish council met and elected as officers:

Bryant Mattson, President
Dena Lien, Vice President
Georgia Sentkowski, Treasurer
Brooksana Raney, Secretary.

May God Bless their ministry and service!

We thank the following who completed their terms of faithful and devoted service to the Church and parish: **Yanni Gholam, Areti Moularas, Chris Pantoleon and Effie Eisses.** May God bless each one of them!

QUESTION: DOES THE ORTHODOX CHURCH ALLOW CREMATION? ANSWER: NO

Dear Parishioner,

Recently some parishioners have asked me what the Orthodox Church teaches regarding cremation. As a friendly reminder, the Orthodox Church does not grant funerals for Orthodox Christians who have been cremated. If you have not made your funeral plans yet, I humbly suggest that you make your plans according to the guidelines below. If you have made your plans with instructions to be cremated, I humbly yet strongly encourage you to change your plans.

In Christ,

Fr. Michael

Greek Orthodox Church of America Guideline Regarding Cremation

Various Christian groups, instead of burial, prefer the cremation of the dead, which was customary among many ancient peoples. The Orthodox Church, however, mindful of the fact that the human body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and inspired by the affection toward her departed children, refuses to deliberately destroy the body, and has adopted the burial of the dead, in imitation of our Lord Jesus Christ Himself as it appears in the Catacombs, and in the graves of the Martyrs and Saints. Cremation, therefore, is contrary to the faith and tradition of our Church and is forbidden to Orthodox Christians. The Church instead insists that the body be buried so that the natural physical process of decomposition may take place. The Church does not grant funerals, either in the sanctuary or at the funeral home, or at any other place, to persons who have chosen to be cremated. Additionally, memorial services with Kolyva (boiled wheat) are not allowed in such instances, inasmuch as the similarity between the "kernel of wheat" and the "body" has been intentionally destroyed.