



SAINT STEVEN'S SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT



SAINT STEVEN'S || YEAR IN REVIEW 2022



2022 ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

Saint Steven's Serbian Orthodox Cathedral
Alhambra, California

www.saintstevens.org



https://www.instagram.com/saint_stevens_cathedral/



<https://www.youtube.com/c/StStevenSerbianOrthodoxCathedralAlhambraCA>



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PASTORAL MESSAGE

*Now you are the body of Christ and
individually members of it.*

Dear Cathedral Family,

Often there are times when we become overwhelmed by life and its endless challenges and anxieties. Our life and our world can be taxing, to say the least, for young and old. In 2022, we entered the third year of the pandemic, and as we became more active and began returning to a usual schedule of services and events, we simply made the effort to live the mystery of life as gracefully as we could each day. Perhaps all of this made us realize more than before, that a place like 1621 Garvey Avenue in Alhambra, is more than a piece of geography. It is a place defined by the people present at this place, and despite our weaknesses and challenges, we are blessed with many good people, talented lay leaders, hard working volunteers, and generous stewards and donors.

The year 2022 was then a time of transition, which included not only navigating through the remaining months of the pandemic, but also bidding farewell to Fr. Norman and his family as they moved on to his new parish assignment, and welcoming Merritt Pavichevich to assume the duties of Director of Christian Education. We also had to sadly bid farewell to some of our families who moved away, as well as joyfully welcome a few new families to our parish. So, our life at Saint Steven's is always full. We have our ups and downs, strengths and weakness, sorrows and joys, and by God's Grace, through it all we remain united as the parish family of the *Cathedral of the Pacific*. Many travel long distances to attend liturgy, sacraments and parish events, which is a testimony to the fact that the Church is the center of life. Before anything else, the parish exists for the salvation of its people, where Grace is received in the Sacraments and where we, each unique and different, are united as one family of God, united in our variety.

So as we thank God for all things, let us continue to serve the Church and work out our salvation through all that is provided for us at our beloved Saint Steven's Cathedral. May God bless each and everyone!

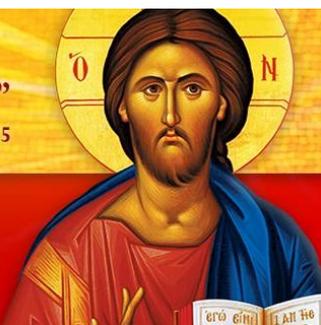
In Christ,

Fr. Nicholas Ceko

**“Go into all the world and proclaim
the good news to the whole creation”**

Mark 16.15

OBJECTIVES AND ACTIVITY



Saint Steven’s Cathedral in many ways appears unchanging and timeless, as for 77 years it has been and remains a place of worship and Christian fellowship, existing for the glory of God and a sign of God’s kingdom in this changing world. Our Cathedral parish is here for everyone, as together we seek to sustain, grow and continue to offer a warm and hospitable welcome to all, as well as be good stewards of our financial, human and physical resources.

In 2022, despite the challenges of the ongoing pandemic, we forged ahead with our regular activities which foremost include:

- Worship and fellowship
- Grand Holiday and Feast Day celebrations
- Pastoral Care, resuming visits to hospitals, nursing facilities and homes
- Auxiliary gatherings and events
- The ministry and work of our Cathedral Auxiliaries: The Women’s Auxiliary members who are vital to our fellowship ministry each Sunday and holiday; our Choir members who beautifully lead us in song each Sunday and feast day; our Senior Citizen’s Club which provides activities and regular camaraderie for our seniors; and our RCA which provides extra-curricular activities for our children and youth. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their labor of love.
- Education for youth through our Sunday School program and for adults through our Bible Study and Faith Groups, Book Club, Women’s Tea and Study, Men’s Retreat, Youth Camping and other similar programs.
- Regular upkeep and capital improvements of our facilities.

On the other hand, we have had to contend with challenges due to demographics and the increase of various social and societal changes occurring in our state and country which can easily have an influence on some, particularly the young.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



Among the programs for our youth, the Cathedral Religious Cultural Association once more organized the Annual Family Winter Camping Program held at PineCrest Center Twin Peaks, in February 2022.

2022 Mrvichin Scholarship Recipients



Jareth Treize Fake

Jareth, son of Jason and Andrea Fake, graduated from Crean Lutheran High School in Irvine, where for all four years he participated in the Medical Cohort Program; was trained and certified to respond to city-level emergencies by the Irvine Community Emergency Response Team. He has been in the Sunday school program since Kindergarten and has been active as an Altar server, singer in the youth choir, event volunteer, and folklore program participant.



Liliana Adzich

Liliana, daughter of Vaso and Mary Adzich, graduated from Foothill High School in North Tustin, where she earned membership into the National Honor Society, was a member of the California Scholarship Federation for her academic achievement and community service. Lily has been in the Sunday school program since Kindergarten and active as a Myrrhbearer server, youth choir, event volunteer, and folklore dance program participant.



Theodora Stefan

Theodora, daughter of Lawrence and Pamela Stefan, graduated from La Canada High School receiving honors and distinctions in the National Honors Society, Science National Honors Society, and awarded the Presidential Volunteer Award, and was an AP Scholar with Distinction. She has been in the Sunday school program since Kindergarten and active as an Epistle reader, cantor, Myrrh-bearer, volunteer, and in the folklore dance program.

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



Graduate: Nikola Mile Milicevic

Nikola, son of Robert and Milena Milicevic, graduated Magna Cum Laude from Chaminade College Preparatory High School in West Hills, where he was a member of the California Scholarship Federation for his academic achievement and community service, and was also a scholar athlete as a member of the soccer, volleyball, and basketball teams; in addition, he also served on the Student Council. Nikola has been in the Sunday school program since Kindergarten and has been active as an Altar server, event volunteer, and folklore dance program participant.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS WITH CONVOCATION AND CONCLUDES WITH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LEARNING!



As seen in these photographs, the close of the Sunday School year was the big Festival of Learning held in June. Then, in September, we began the new school year with a Convocation Ceremony, welcoming the students and teachers to the new year. The joy of learning the faith from beginning to end!

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



Women's Tea & Study

Women's Tea and Study

Several of these study gatherings take place during the year. Our Women's Auxiliary helps to organize them as a time of learning and fellowship. In 2022 we had the opportunity of hearing on topics such as *"keeping the faith through change and crisis"* and *"forgiveness and God's mercy."*



Saint Basil Feast

In January, as part of our liturgical tradition, we nurture the youth and faith in the teachings of Saint Basil the Great through the blessing of the *Vasilica cake (Basil cake)*. This is part of our ongoing efforts of formation in the faith. (photo

Children's Day Festivities include the Advent Concert and the Pageant. In 2022, the youth presented *"The Grinch found Christ on Christmas."*

First Annual Men's Retreat In March, we held a Men's Retreat on the topic: *Reflection on the Underground Man in the works of Dostoyevsky,"* by Dustin Lovell.



Nativity Pageant



March Men's Retreat

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



Prosphora baking workshop

Prosphora Baking

In 2022, Protinica Sandra held a series of classes for those interested in making the prosphora church bread used at the liturgy. We now have 3 families that make the bread and hope to have more in 2023!



BEYOND THE PEAK
Los Angeles Premiere

On October 22, 2022, Saint Steven's hosted this inspiring documentary.



PREPARING FOR
HOLY MATRIMONY
SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 2022

MARRIAGE encounter

In early Spring we held a special "Marriage Encounter" gathering where couples who were preparing for their wedding in 2022, met one another in fellowship and discussed the various aspects of marriage and family life with Fr. Nick.



SERBFEST 2022

September 17-18 was the weekend we hosted the greater community with great food, entertainment, kid's rides and education in faith and culture. We are grateful to festival chair Jon Savic and all the generous sponsors and many volunteers who made this a joyful weekend for all!

2022 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



Youth Singers Advent Concert

Our Auxiliaries

We are grateful for all our auxiliaries who enjoy special gatherings and make a special contribution to the life our parish. *(Senior Citizen's club 2022 anniversary photo above)*

Youth Singers

Our youth singers, inspired by our choir, sing at liturgy and in concert.

Young Adult Fellowship *(photo below)*

Our young adults continue to meet during the year as they did for the viewing of the movie, "Man of God."



Among the visitors we welcomed in 2022 was Abbott Metodiye from Hilandar Monastery, Mount Athos, who visited on the Feast of Transfiguration. *(above)*

2022 PARISH STATISTICS

Divine Liturgies: 88
Vigil/Vespers Services: 51
Matins: 62
Baptisms/Chrismations: 21
Funerals: 17
Marriages: 10
Memorial Services: 14
Number of individual members: 384
Number of Steward families: 253
Sunday School Enrollment: 65



Financials 2022

By the Grace of God, and with everyone's help, Saint Steven's Cathedral enjoyed a fruitful year 2022. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who have labored before us, as well as to those who today offer their support, and the new generation of faithful members in our midst.

INCOME

Stewardship Contributions	\$ 353,798.90
Stewardship Endowment Income	\$ 100,793.46
Church Offerings	\$ 17,567.03
Church Holiday Offerings	\$ 69,705.00
<i>Includes Auxiliary donations</i>	
Candle Revenue Net Income	\$ 7,853.00
Memorial Donations <i>non endowment</i>	\$ 14,435.00
Memorial Endowment Income	\$ 42,386.53
Parish Festival Net Income	\$ 3,087.54
Facility Use Fees (<i>Rental/Cleanup</i>)	\$ 6,850.00
Beverage Net Income	\$ 9,641.91
Other Income	\$ 4,366.33
<i>Includes stole fees, interest earned, parish events</i>	
5% Other Endowment Income	\$ <u>153,302.71</u>

TOTAL INCOME **\$ 783,787.41**

Financials 2022

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 193,068.69
<i>Salaries for Dean, Assistant Priest, and Administrative Assistance</i>	
Insurance, Taxes & Pension	\$ 205,100.95
<i>General liability, liquor liability, payroll, worker's compensation, health and life insurance, Property tax; clergy pension, self-employment, and renter's insurance</i>	
Maintenance	\$ 134,732.88
<i>Janitorial staff wages/health insurance gardening, supplies, pest control, HVAC general repairs and maintenance</i>	
Utilities	\$ 83,452.59
<i>Electric, gas, water, refuse, and telephone</i>	
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 76,258.68
Postage, Printing, Office Equipment/Supplies	\$ 16,598.20
Christian Education, Youth and Young Adults	\$ 21,547.91
<i>Sunday School Supplies, young adult ministry, seminars and conferences, library, lay assistance</i>	
Liturgical Music	\$ 15,750.00
<i>Choir Director remuneration and supplies</i>	
Charities and Donations – Special	\$ 1,472.82
Miscellaneous - Other Expenses	\$ 34,076.26
<i>Includes church supplies, hospitality, parish events, security, travel, bank and credit card fees and other expenses, internet etc.</i>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 782,058.98
Net Income	\$ 1,728.43

Financials 2022

2022 ADDITIONAL ENDOWMENT DISBURSEMENTS

Capital Improvements/Extraordinary Expenses

Electric upgrade for exit signs, circuit units in all facilities	\$ 4,549.62
Replace piping with copper in the hall men's bathroom due to underground leak	\$ 7,200.00
Ice Maker line replacement and kitchen faucet in hall	\$ 1,605.00
Upgrade breaker and replace electric panel in parish home	<u>\$ 4,425.86</u>
Total Capital Improvements	\$ 17,780.48

Charity and Other Donations

Clergy Widow's Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Saint Sava Children's Camp	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Total Charity	\$ 6,000.00

Earmarked Endowments

ENP Needy Fund	\$ 11,077.32
RCA	\$ 9,833.57
Mrvichin Scholarship Awards	<u>\$ 6,000.00</u>
Total Earmarked Distribution	\$ 26,910.89

TOTAL OTHER ENDOWMENT DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2022

\$ 50,691.37

Saint John the Merciful Emergency Need Program

In 2022, this philanthropic program provided personal financial assistance for such needs as rent or mortgage payments, temporary housing, medical expenses, groceries and other household needs, for a total of \$12,822.49 to 14 individuals or families and \$18.75 was used to order new checks for this purpose.



Children's Hospital Los Angeles

Once again in 2022, we provided financial assistance to the families of the Center for Achievement of Teens and Children with hand differences.



SAINT STEVEN'S SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

1621 West Garvey Avenue—Alhambra, CA 91803

www.saintstevens.org

LITURGY

We gather in order to be together as one family to worship, pray, sing, hear God's Word, and to have the living experience of God's eternal kingdom.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

When we bring our children regularly to Liturgy and then to Sunday School, we provide them with a gift of knowledge that has lifelong value and significance.

FELLOWSHIP

When we are in close relationships with other believers, we have people to pray for us, support us, encourage us, exhort us and serve alongside us.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Our education programs nurture, instruct, and direct the members of the parish in Christian living, so that each person grows 'in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

AUXILIARY SERVICE

The goals of our parish auxiliaries and other leadership roles are to assist in ensuring the viability of the church as well as to give members an opportunity to offer their service to the Church.

STEWARDSHIP AND OUTREACH

Parish Stewardship and Outreach are a way of life and the responsibility of every Orthodox Christian, through which we acknowledge accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God.