



SAINT STEVEN'S SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL



YEAR IN REVIEW 2023



2023 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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ONE
CHURCH
FAMILY



PASTORAL MESSAGE

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named

Ephesians 3:14

Dear Cathedral Family,

As many of you know, with this report I have the honor and joy of beginning my 31st year as your pastor. Through the years I have learned many things and continue to grow and appreciate all that God has given to this community, not only in its beautiful physical campus, but also in the spiritual formation of the people that together make up our Church Family,

Saint Steven's is a vibrant and diverse parish. And though the majority of our parishioners today come from the Los Angeles and Orange Counties, many also now come from Riverside, Ventura and San Bernardino Counties.

We are blessed with a full liturgical life and many opportunities for service and fellowship, for which I have always been grateful. With God's help and yours, I am always looking to improve and expand these ministries. It is a beautiful thing to witness the many who receive the word of God and God Himself in His Church. Likewise, it is a joy to see those who love the Church, love Orthodoxy, love worship and fellowship, and of course, I am mindful that there have always been those who, for whatever their reason, do not. As in the New Testament parable we learn that the Lord is the great Sower who sows seeds which sometimes it falls on good soil and sometimes, due to distractions and temptations, the soil is not so good and the seed is not able to grow and bear fruit. I am reminding myself daily to be that good soil and am grateful to witness it in so many of you.

As this report is presented to highlight just some of our common work, I also express gratitude for the careful management of the financial resources of the parish by the Cathedral's leadership, and for all of our generous donors.

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,

Dr. Nicholas Ceko

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



2023 Choir Concert



2023 RCA Youth New York Trip

OUR DEDICATED PARISH AUXILIARIES

We are grateful for our auxiliaries which make a special contribution to the life our parish. Our Women's Auxiliary continues to organize the regular Sunday fellowship luncheons and Festive banquets, as well as the quarterly "Women's Tea and Study," and annual "Spring Fling."

The dedicated effort of our Cathedral Choir members shows each liturgy and feast day. During Advent 2023, they once again performed a Nativity Concert along with our Cathedral Cantors and Youth Singers.

Our Senior Citizen's Club is more active than ever, with monthly meetings, lunches and wonderful field trips; while our Religious Cultural Association (RCA) is growing with many parents involved in sponsoring extra-curricular and cultural activities for our children and youth, including our annual Family Winter Camp and Annual Folk Fest. In December, the RCA also organized and sponsored the triennial Youth Group trip to Saint Vladimir's Seminary and New York City, a special highlight of the year.

ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF LEARNING!

As seen in the photographs below, with the help of 2 Superintendents and 12 teachers, our Sunday School Education Director organized our big *Festival of Learning*. Then, in September, we began the new school year with a Convocation Ceremony, welcoming the students and teachers to the new year.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



- FAITH AND BIBLE STUDY
 - WOMEN'S "TEA & STUDY"
- ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT
 - BOOK CLUB

In 2023, we held monthly Faith and Bible Study groups in Santa Ana/Orange County, South Pasadena/San Gabriel Valley and at the Cathedral. The Women's "Tea and Study" were held quarterly while the Book Club met online. The Annual Men's Retreat was held in the Spring in conjunction with "Facility Clean Up Day."



ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL—SERBFEST 2023

The Sights, Sounds & Tastes from the Heart of the Balkans!

On September 16-17, with the help of so many volunteers and generous donors, our Cathedral once again held our Annual Festival for the greater Southern California community. The festival chairpersons Jonny Savic and Vera Russo put together a large number of volunteers and supporters to whom we again express our gratitude making the festival another success!

2023 PARISH STATISTICS

Divine Liturgies: 94

Matins/Vespers Services: 50

Matins: 69

Baptisms/Chrismations: 10

Funerals: 9

Marriages: 9

Memorial Services: 13

Number of individual members: 378

Number of Steward families: 245

Sunday School Enrollment: 64

2023 HIGHLIGHTS

LITURGY ■ FELLOWSHIP ■ SERVICE ■ EDUCATION



YOUNG ADULTS CELEBRATE PATRONAL FEAST

Our Cathedral Young Adults are always willing to be more integrated into the life of the parish. The highlight of the year is their feast day celebration each year.

ST JOHN THE MERCIFUL PROGRAM FOR THOSE IN NEED

In 2023, this philanthropic program again provided personal financial assistance for urgent medical expenses, automobile repairs, rent, groceries and other household needs to 13 individuals or families for a total of \$14,050,01. In addition, in 2023, at Christmas financial assistance and gifts to the families of the Center for Achievement of Teens and Children with hand differences at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

CATHEDRAL ENDOWMENTS SUPPORT MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH

Our Endowment Program continues to generously support our work and ministries. In 2023, 3 Regular and 2 Memorial Endowments were established by parishioners, in honor or in memory of their loved ones. A full report is made in June during our annual Endowment Recognition Day.

2023 SPECIAL ENDOWMENT DISBURSEMENTS

Capital Improvements/Extraordinary Expenses

Purchase of new freezer in hall kitchen	\$ 10,539.49
Total Capital Improvements	\$ 10,539.49

Charity and Other Donations

Clergy Widow’s Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Saint Sava Children’s Camp	\$ 1,000.00
Total Charity	\$ 6,000.00

Earmarked Endowments

ENP Needy Fund	\$ 9,951.00
RCA	\$ 7,750.00
Mrvichin Scholarship Awards	\$ 6,000.00
Total Earmarked Distribution	\$ 23,701.00

**TOTAL SPECIAL ENDOWMENT
DISBURSEMENTS FOR 2023**

\$ 40,240.49

Financials 2023

INCOME

Stewardship Contributions	\$ 397,409.38
Stewardship Endowment Income	\$ 52,483.04
Church Offerings	\$ 24,612.33
Church Holiday Offerings	\$ 54,139.29
<i>Includes Auxiliary donations</i>	
Candle Revenue Net Income	\$ 7,396.88
Memorial Donations <i>non endowment</i>	\$ 17,630.67
Memorial Endowment Income	\$ 12,241.52
Parish Festival Net Income	\$ 27,499.88
Facility Use Fees (<i>Rental/Cleanup</i>)	\$ 9,350.00
Beverage Net Income	\$ 1,243.88
Other Income	\$ 2,353.57
<i>Includes stole fees, interest earned, parish events</i>	
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 606,359.44

EXPENSES

Salaries	\$ 153,960.16
<i>Salaries for Dean, other clergy and Administrative</i>	
Insurance, Taxes & Pension	\$ 185,531.86
<i>General liability, liquor liability, payroll, worker's compensation, health and life insurance, Property tax; clergy pension, self-employment</i>	
Maintenance	\$ 164,788.50
<i>Janitorial staff wages/health insurance gardening, supplies, pest control, HVAC general repairs and maintenance</i>	
Utilities	\$ 80,497.44
<i>Electric, gas, water, refuse, and telephone</i>	
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 68,632.80
Postage, Printing, Office Equipment/Supplies	\$ 21,687.29
Christian Education, Youth and Young Adults	\$ 43,291.21
<i>Sunday School Supplies, young adult ministry, seminars and conferences, library, lay assistance</i>	
Liturgical Music	\$ 18,250.00
<i>Choir Director remuneration and supplies</i>	
Charities and Donations – Special Gifts	\$ 2,520.00
Miscellaneous - Other Expenses	\$ 48,471.04
<i>Includes church supplies, hospitality, parish events, security, travel, bank and credit card fees and other expenses</i>	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 787,630.30
2023 Endowment Distribution	\$ 172,373.88
NET LOSS	\$ (8,896.98)



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

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.