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COMMUNITY UPDATE

We welcome to the church:
Eleni, Baptized and Chrismated

We pray for the servants of God, who departed this life:
Peter Mering
Sylvester Padilla, Jr.
Constantine “Gus” Petrakos
Theodore Metropoulos
Fran Sellas
Jenny Kleary
Gratification or Edification?

The annual Folk Dance Festival (FDF) of our Metropolis draws thousands of Greek Orthodox Christians for a weekend of fellowship, worship, song and dance. As of this writing, five dance groups from Annunciation, with their parents and directors, will travel to Anaheim in anticipation of repeating their amazing award-winning accomplishments from last year. There are nearly 200 of us attending from Sacramento, a group larger than most parishes in the Archdiocese. Aside from Annunciation’s long-standing affiliation with the dance program, what is it that motivates so many of our young people to rehearse for months and at no small cost to their parents? I would conclude it is “cultural gratification.” I remember with much fondness my four-year old daughter in her traditional custom dancing to her heart’s content, and back when the little ones, barely toddlers (now Division 3) used to actually compete! And now I look forward to seeing my grandchildren dance and enjoy this wonderful fellowship with their peers. Enjoying one’s culture (small “t” tradition) is certainly to be commended and celebrated but, let’s be honest, it is only the starting point (the context) for “clothing” ourselves is the Living Tradition (Capital T) of our precious and timeless Orthodox Christian faith. A dance program is gratifying for obvious reasons, but unless it promotes spiritual edification, aka Christian formation and love for God and our fellow man, we are nothing more than “a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal” (I Corinthians 13:1).

We face a special challenge at Annunciation, one that I recently shared with our dancers and parents, how to deepen our commitment to Christ liturgically in the context of particular cultural realities. Let me blunt. How do we retool our approach to youth ministries to create a worship experience that is inviting and memorable? We need to rethink how we educate our youth and focus on Christian education (catechism) for the whole family. We need to ask the hard questions. Why are our young people able and eager to learn extremely difficult dances but may not know the names of the four Gospel writers? Why do they make the concerted effort to memorize and execute folk dances perfectly tuned but they won’t show up for 90 minutes on Sunday morning to offer praise to God with those same voices? Obviously, I’m directing these questions to you the parents and grandparents. I’m challenging you to commit your time and talents to revitalizing our efforts to build up (edify) our youth. I say this not because the youth are our future. That is a false premise. Rather, the Church is the future of our youth. In the increasingly secular culture that defines America, their only hope for true healing and growth in Christ is in and through the Church. At the risk of stating the obvious the only way to really experience the love of Christ, the only way to fully be a Christian, is to be in Church and become alive in the Liturgy. Please join me and our Church family to be more vigilant in our corporate prayer life (come to Liturgy!) and to be open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit on how to move beyond cultural gratification to the fullness of our life in Christ. Let us give new expression and life to the Psalmist’s proclamation: “Praise him with timbrel and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!” (Ps. 150:4)

Kali Sarakosti!

Father James
In preparation for Great Lent, we remember those who have departed this life with the Divine Liturgy and memorial prayers – called Saturday of the Souls. Please bring a list of the names of those who have fallen asleep in the Lord and Koliva if you wish.

The Saturdays of the Soul begin with Orthros at 9:00 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy, and concluding with the memorial prayers. The third and final Saturday of the Souls will be on Saturday, March 7th.

Great Lent calls us to prepare for the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. There are two main components to Great Lent; fasting and prayer. As St. Synklitiki of Alexandria, a 4th century desert mother and monastic, writes, “Just as the most bitter medicine drives out poisonous things, so prayer joined to fasting drives evil thoughts away”. St. John Chrysostom also writes, “The fast of Lent has no advantage to us unless it brings about our spiritual renewal. It is necessary while fasting to change our whole life and practice virtue. Turning away from all wickedness means; keeping our tongue in check, restraining our anger, avoiding all gossip, lying and swearing. To abstain from these things– herein is the true value of the fast. St. John Chrysostom again writes, which summarizes the goal of this season, “For what good is it if we abstain from meat and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?”

With this mentality we should approach fasting and Great Lent!

Fasting, without prayer, is simply dieting, which is why we increase our prayer life through attendance and participation in the services of our Church. During Great Lent, we pray three beautiful and unique Church services; The Great Compline, the Presanctified Liturgy, and the Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί). We invite you to pray with us these services during Great Lent:

- **Great Compline | Mondays 6:00 pm**
- **Presanctified Liturgy | Wednesdays 6:00 pm**
- **Salutations to the Theotokos (Χαιρετισμοί) | Fridays 7:00 pm**

During Great Lent, we will celebrate the feast of the Annunciation – to which our church is dedicated:

- **Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos**
  Tuesday, March 24th – 7:00 pm
- **Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos**
  Wednesday, March 25th – 9:00 am Orthros, 10:00 am Divine Liturgy

**ORTHODOXY 101**

Father James will lead a class on the basics of Orthodoxy from 7:15 to 8:30 pm on Mondays during Great Lent, following the 6 pm Great Compline service. The class is designed for inquirers or anyone interested in deepening their experience of Orthodox Christianity.

Following are the topics to be covered:

- **March 2:** Why There is No Salvation Outside the Church
- **March 9:** Holy Scripture and Sacred Tradition
- **March 16:** Church History and the Councils
- **March 23:** The Sacraments
- **March 30:** The Communion of Saints, Icons and Architecture
- **April 6:** The 8th Day: Feasting and Fasting
The reign of life has begun, the tyranny of death is ended...
This is the day the Lord has made—a day far different from those made when the world was first created, and which are measured by the passage of time. This is the beginning of a new creation.
- St. Gregory of Nyssa (384)

We arrive at Holy Week and we are called to gather daily at the church to walk with Christ into Jerusalem, to the Mystical Supper, to His betrayal, passion, and crucifixion, and finally, His glorious Resurrection!

**Satuday of Lazarus | April 11**
Orthros and Divine Liturgy 9:00 am | 10:00 am – Youth Retreat & folding palm crosses after church
**Palm Sunday | April 12**
Orthros and Divine Liturgy – 9:00 am | 10:00 am
Matins of Holy Monday: Service of the Bridegroom – 7:00 pm
**Holy Monday | April 13**
Matins of Holy Tuesday: Service of the Bridegroom – 7:00 pm
**Holy Tuesday | April 14**
Presanctified Liturgy – 9:00 am
Matins of Holy Wednesday: Service of the Bridegroom – 7:00 pm
**Holy Wednesday | April 15**
Sacrament of Holy Unction (Ευχέλαιο) – 4:00 pm
Matins of Holy Thursday: The Mystical Supper – 7:00 pm
**Holy Thursday | April 16**
Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper – 10:00 am
Matins of Holy Friday: The Passion of Christ and the Procession of the Cross – 7:00 pm
**Holy and Great Friday | April 17**
Royal Hours – 9:00 am – Decorating the Kouvouklion following Royal Hours
Great Vespers: Descent from the Cross – 3:00 pm
Matins of Holy Saturday: Service of the Lamentations – 7:00 pm
**Holy Saturday | April 18**
Vesperal Divine Liturgy Announcing the Resurrection (Πρώτη Ανάσταση) – 9:00 am

_The Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – Great and Holy Pascha_
Orthros and Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection – 11:00 pm
**Pascha Sunday | April 19**
Agape Vespers – 12:00 pm

Χριστός Ανέστη! Αληθῶς Ανέστη! | Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
The church enters Great Lent leading to Holy Pascha with much anticipation and prayerful reflection. It is an opportunity for all Orthodox Christians to seek and embrace spiritual renewal and love for others, a love which is deeply rooted in our faith, and discovered in our Lord’s Resurrection. It is a time for giving alms, helping the poor, fasting, seeking forgiveness from others, and attending church services as often as possible. The schedule of weekly services will be forthcoming in the near future to all stewards.

The Parish Council recently appointed two new members, Bill Evrigenis and Niko Pikios, to fill open positions. Please welcome and thank them for serving our parish.

By the time this article prints, the Folk Dance Festival (FDF) will have taken place in Anaheim. For the better half of 2019 and this year, our dance groups have committed hours and hours of time and hard work preparing for competition. On behalf of the Parish Council, I would like to thank all of the directors, DSG Board, parents and dancers. Last year was indeed a banner year for several of our groups and regardless of the outcome this year, we should all be extremely proud of their efforts. SAC-RA-MENTO!

That being said, I believe strongly that there is no substitute for attending Divine Liturgy with our children. I am challenging parents, grandparents or godparents of children enrolled in Sunday School, Greek Education or Folk Dance to make a concerted effort to attend church on Sundays together. I am sure that you will agree that we can all do better!

There are several projects currently in progress around the church campus. The church bells project was initiated by members of the choir and is close to completion. Thank you to Maria DeVille and Bessie Papailias for researching, fundraising and coordinating this wonderful new asset for our church. Another project, which the Parish Council has approved in concept, is replacement of the front doors to our church. First brought to us by Sophia Evrigenis, this project will undoubtedly beautify the church for many years. The existing doors have basically failed to operate correctly for quite some time, requiring hefty repair and maintenance costs. This particular project will take more time to complete, but it should be spectacular! Thank you to Mrs. Evrigenis.

By now I am sure that many of you have noticed a security guard at the main entrance to our church on Sundays. A few have asked “why?” Others “why not?” The Parish Council voted to include this in our 2020 budget as a precaution and deterrent due to the uncertain times we live in. Places of worship have become targets for hate and evil across our country and the world. Also, on any given Sunday the Parish Council members have had to confront an increasing homeless population trying to enter the sanctuary, not for worship, but to disrupt and/or ask for money. Although some have become violent and unruly, we do our best to treat them with respect. (By the way, our security guard’s name is Ross, and if you have the opportunity, please thank him on Sunday mornings).

The Parish Council sincerely appreciates your feedback and continued support, as we are always striving to do the right thing. It is both an honor and privilege to serve our parish, and I encourage anyone who meets the requirements, to consider running for Parish Council.

Kali Sarakosti!
Sincerely in Christ,

George Dariotis
Annunciation Parish Council 2nd Vice President

The Annunciation Observer ★ March/April 2020
Stewardship Message

Spring is soon upon us and with spring’s arrival, an opportunity for spiritual renewal. The Church gives us Great Lent so we can warm our hearts and relieve spiritual weariness. It gives us an opportunity to walk with Christ as we witness his passion and anticipate his resurrection.

We make this journey through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. I truly look forward to this time because not only is it a time of reflection for each of us as individuals, it is our Orthodox Church at its best. There are so many beautiful services offered during Lent culminating with Holy Week.

Opportunities for prayer, fellowship and participation abound. Your stewardship commitment promotes this spiritual growth and strengthens our faith. As stewards we affirm that every aspect of our lives is a gift from God.

We should always remember this and especially during this special time.

We truly have so much for which we should be grateful.

Wishing everyone Kali Sarakosti and ultimately Kali Anastasi.

In Christ,

Stella Dariotis
Stewardship Chair

An Update on The Build

Construction of “The Build” has been completed and the facilities have been utilized by our parish for almost 3 years.

Building Loan Balance as of 2/19/20: $2,491,561 at 4.19% interest

Interest paid from 2017-2020: $650,620.00

This $650,620 in interest could have been used for our programs, groups, ministries and the parish in general.

If you have not given—now is the time!

We are all benefitting from a long-term vision and wish of our parish for many years. All we ask is 100% participation and your best gift. Please help us get debt free.
hiloptochos began the new decade by hosting a successful New Year’s Eve Celebration which was coordinated by Despina Demas. Thank you so much Despina. That event was quickly followed on January 5 by a delicious Lenten Vasilopita Luncheon, established to raise funds for St. Basil’s Academy, which was underwritten by Bessie Papaillas and prepared by Helen Grammatikakis. Thank you Bessie and Helen. Also, thank you to all those who assisted—with a special thank you to Despina Demas for making vasilopites for each table and Faye Vallas, Voula Cazanis, and Mary Theophilopoulos for providing vasilopites to auction. A dinner on January 19 for the Family Promise program at St. John’s Lutheran Church completed the major activities for the month. Thank you to Suanna Gurovich and everyone who contributed to the dinner at St. John’s.

February will focus on Kids’n’Cancer to help raise funds to send children with cancer and their families to Camp Agape. Elaine Wright is coordinating the coffee hours, pancake breakfast, and cake raffle. In addition, Bessie Papaillas is sponsoring a Stuffed Bear Raffle which will be held after the Cake Raffle. If you are able to donate a cake, please let Elaine know at (916) 965-7607 or joelainewright@hotmail.com. Elaine and Bessie, thank you.

On March 4, the first Wednesday of Lent, Philoptochos will serve a Lenten supper after Great Vespers, and we hope you will be able to join us. On March 23, Philoptochos will again serve dinner at St. John’s, and on March 24, Philoptochos will host a reception after Vespers. March 30 and April 6 will be preparation days for the Easter Baked Goods Sale. If you would like to assist, please contact Toula Zioga-Delis at (916) 745-5022 or toula10@yahoo.com.

In addition to baking, Philoptochos will host the Palm Sunday Luncheon, prepared by Helen Grammatikakis. Philoptochos will also create Easter baskets for the home-bound, coordinated by Faye Vallas, and host a membership barbeque. The Philoptochos meeting will not be on the second Tuesday in April but on the first Tuesday, which is April 7.

We welcome you to join us and to contribute your special talents!

Helen Nickolson
Annunciation Philoptochos President
The programs offered at our monthly lunches are always interesting, informative, and even entertaining, and program chairperson Pauline Cazanis is always looking for something new. At a recent board meeting, it was suggested that we not have a program every month, and just set aside a month once in a while and take the time to visit and enjoy each other’s company. This is a good idea; after all, our main purpose for ASL is fellowship, companionship and taking the time to visit with each other and catch-up. After talking to a few members, it was suggested that we do both……set aside time to just visit AND have a presentation after lunch. Helen Diavatis and her team are well prepared at the Hos ’d oeuvres table before 11:00, a full hour prior to lunch, so instead of visiting after lunch, let’s try socializing before lunch. Think about it; check with your parea and luncheon friends and spend some time together before we share a meal together.

Terry Kastanis
Annunciation Senior League President

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

MARCH 5th, Chef Vasilis Tsigeris
APRIL 2nd, Chef Faye Vallas
MAY 7th, Chef Vasilis’ famous chicken kebobs

ASL LUNCHEON DETAILS

Every month we meet with in our lovely Annunciation Hellenic Center (unless otherwise noted) serving great food & interesting programs. Watch for informational flyers and internet communications and please do not hesitate to call with questions.

Reservations help us plan ahead! Please RSVP to
Mary Kondos
5328 Spilman Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95819
Or call (916) 457-2196
Looking Towards Our Centennial

Looking Back, Yet Moving Forward
By Antonia D. Paras Chapralis

During the Divine Liturgy I love to look at the pantokrator (dome), the stained glass windows and the icons (which Father John Angelis referred to as the “windows to heaven”) in our lovely church. It’s transformative; I always feel a sense of reverence and awe. Yet I can’t help but recall happy memories of our beloved Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation.

It all began with our protoporoi, to whom we are forever grateful, who emigrated with little but brought much to America: a strong belief in our Greek Orthodox faith, strong ties to our Greek roots and traditions, and a strong work ethic. Our story begins when our father, Dimitri Paraskakis left Palia Roumata, Crete, and emigrated to America in 1910. Our mother, Katina Mosconisiotou, was born on the island of Skopelos and emigrated with her sister, Magadaline in 1922. Katina & Dimitri met in Hilmar, California, and were married at Annunciation on 620 N Street on January 24, 1926 with Father Georgakopoulos officiating. They honeymooned at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco. Our father had the Union Café at 1024 2nd Street, Old Sacramento, and farms in Natomas where the Sacramento International Airport now sits. Our mother worked at the Bercut Richards Cannery with other Greek women.

For our family, as for many, life revolved around the church. My father was on the Parish Council, ran the bar at the old picnics, and like some others, put up the family home as collateral for our current Annunciation site. Our mother always belonged to Philoptochos and she spoke of visiting people in outlying areas in order to collect money for various erana (church projects.) Years later she was in charge of making dolmades for the Food Festival, which meant visiting my aunt’s vineyard in Delhi to pick thousands of fresh grape leaves. My older siblings Mary, Sophie, Helen, George (†), Kiki, & Gus experienced life at both church sites. (Our oldest brother, Manoli, died at 8 months of age from pneumonia.)

When I was a child, a typical Sunday morning consisted of Sunday School, going into Church for communion, and then back to Sunday School in the Hellenic Center, affectionately known as “The Hall”. In those days we always fasted before communion, and really looked forward to the hot pancake breakfasts that followed. We can’t talk about Sunday School in the 50’s and 60’s without mentioning Lucille Vlahos and Teddy Yazigi, the Sunday school directors who made things run like clockwork. I fondly remember sitting in metal folding chairs while learning the hymns of our church from a flip chart. At Christmastime the myriads of white choir robes with big red collars would surface and the excitement would begin. One Sunday I was so tired from standing on the soleas during yet another Christmas pageant rehearsal that I simply walked over to the bishop’s throne and sat down.

There were more activities that most of us children were involved in. Greek School was always on weekdays after school, upstairs in The Hall. (My daughters knew this room as the dancers’ costume storage area.) We had a number of teachers through the years: our dear Father Kirmitsis, newly ordained Father Mark Vinas, Fr. Kirmitsis’ niece, Danae, Mr. Athanasiou and Miss George. They were as patient as they could be with a bunch of energetic yet tired children of mixed ages and ability levels, which could be a handful. Of course, we always tried hard to perfect our poems for the March 25th celebrations. We also had a thriving GOYA thanks to our advisors, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Kerhoulas and Mr. & Mrs. Athans, who kindly opened their homes to us for special occasions. We were all together and we had fun.
Then there were horosperides (dances) galore sponsored by fraternal groups or the Parish Council. As one entered The Hall, the coat-check room was on the left and the church office was on the right. In addition to being with our friends and dancing and having a good time, the highlight for this writer was the mezethakia. Upon entering the large smoke-filled bar, we’d reach up, get pretzels and hot, fried chicken livers and then top it all off with a soda. Delicious!

In the early days, picnics sponsored by fraternal groups or the Parish council were held at New Helvetia Park with lots of people and lots of kefi! I fondly remember attending fun-filled picnics held in a shady spot at the old State Fair grounds on Stockton Blvd and Broadway. The ladies of the hosting groups always had tables laden with delicious desserts. And the highlight was BINGO, which we played as long as our parents allowed. One cannot talk about those picnics without remembering Mr. Ted Triphon, Sacramento’s original DJ who so patiently spun 78’s (vinyl records) all afternoon.

As I write this, more and more fond memories surface, but I’ll end with the construction of our “new” Sunday School/Office building formerly located at 3022 F Street. What a sense of pride it produced when it opened in 1971. Working on the comprehensive curriculum with the many teachers in our parish was a grueling task, but what a job they did! Getting to teach Sunday School in the brand new building was a thrill for me.

Reminiscing about the good old days is fun and good as long as we stop to check where we are headed. As times change and life evolves, hopefully we are moving forward. As my godparents, Hrissoula and Tony Legatos, wrote in the Annunciation’s 1956 Album commemorating our Church’s consecration, “Η προοδείς μας βασίζεται εις την ενωσιν μας και την συνεργασιαν μας...“

“Our progress is based on our unity and cooperation...”

To that I would add, “and a strong belief in God and our Holy Orthodox faith and its rich traditions.”

We pray that our children, grandchildren and future generations may experience a loving, faith-based, community-centered life in our beloved Annunciation Greek Orthodox parish of Sacramento, California.

ΠΑΝΤΑ ΜΠΡΟΣΤΑ.
ALWAYS FORWARD.
**SUNDAY SCHOOL**

As we begin Great Lent, we see an increase of services. On the first Sunday of Great Lent, the Sunday of Orthodoxy, we invite our youth to bring their icons to church to celebrate the restoration of the Holy Icons! On the third Sunday of Great Lent, we will have the Sunday of the Holy Cross, as a reminder of our symbol of victory and strength, so that we may be refreshed in our journey to the Resurrection of our Lord!

**March 2020**

- Sunday, 1: Regular Sunday, Forgiveness Sunday
- Monday, 2: Clean Monday — Great Lent Begins
- Sunday, 8: No Class — Sunday of Orthodoxy
- Procession with the Icons
- Sunday, 15: Regular Sunday
- Sunday, 22: No Class — Sunday of the Holy Cross
- Tuesday, 24: Great Vespers on the Eve of the Feast of the Annunciation

**April 2020**

- Sunday, 5: Regular Sunday; Parish Oratorical Festival
- Wednesday, 24: Divine Liturgy for the Annunciation of the Theotokos, our Church’s Nameday
- Sunday, 29: Regular Sunday; Parish Oratorical Festival

**May 2020**

- Sunday, 3: Regular Sunday
- Sunday, 10: Regular Sunday (Memorial Day)
- Sunday, 17: Regular Sunday
- Sunday, 24: No Class — Memorial Day Weekend
- Sunday, 31: Closing Ceremony/End of the year BBQ

**Greek School**

The beginning of the new calendar year was an auspicious one for the Greek School Program. On January 8th, Fathers Timothy and James blessed the program and cut the annual Vassilopita. The youngest class, the pre-K students, got the coin and were thrilled to learn about the good luck that was to follow them throughout the rest of the year.

The Vassilopita blessing also inspired the various classes in their submissions to the Three Hierarchs contest. The topic of the 9th Annual Greek Letters and Arts Contest was: “The rich man is not one who is in possession of much, one who gives much.” (Saint John Chrysostom). Over 75 entries were submitted by both Greek school and Sunday school programs throughout the Metropolis of San Francisco. There were eight different categories in the competition, ranging from an essay submission to film production. The Greek School Program submitted six entries: two essays, three photographs, and one film production. It is with great pleasure to announce that the Annunciation won three awards, one of which received first place. Vasiliki Kokkinis (B2 Ellinomatheia) won third prize for her essay on the “Wealthy King” written entirely in Greek, while the A2 class (taught by Vasiliki Kapetanoudis) also won third place for their video submission. The A1 class (taught by Katerina Lagos) won first prize for their photography submission. All of the Greek school classes deserve commendation for their hard work in preparing their entries.

This month, the Greek school students will be continuing their progress in their lessons and the Ellinomatheia students will be preparing for their Ellinomatheia exams in late May. To show their support and encouragement of the Greek school mission (and to wish the Ellinomatheia students good luck on their tests), the Peloponnesian Society ‘O Moreas’ is organizing a festive Apokriatiko Glendi on Saturday, February 29th.

Live music, delicious food, and special treats are in store for everyone who attends. The Greek School Program is grateful to the Peloponnesian Society for their continued support of our Greek school students!
Thank you to all of our DSG grandparents, parents, dancers, and directors that made our 2019-2020 season such a success! We had a wonderful weekend at FDF 2020 in Anaheim with every group earning an award:

**Division III**
Filarakia, Directed by Athena Bourdaniotis & Agamemnon Bourdaniotis  
- Participation Award

Anthema, Directed by Alex Eriksson & Nikki Karapanos  
- Participation Award

**Division II - Advanced Primary**
Nea Genia, Directed by Dimitra Tsigaris, Evi Tsigaris, & Katina Vail  
- Second Place  
- Costume Award

**Division I - Intermediate**
Hara, Directed by Nena Kyriklidou & George Kyriklides  
- Fourth Place

**Division I - Advanced Senior**
Deos, Directed by Lindsey Kivetos, Nena Kyriklidou, & Katina Vail  
- Division I Sweepstakes

In addition to 5 dance groups, we had 7 young adults serve on the FDF Management Team, to help plan and make the weekend run smoothly:

- Danae Magoulias, Director of Events  
- Katherine Rotas, Events Team  
- Angelica Whaley, Events Team  
- Christina Tsapouklis, Registration Team  
- Yianni Magoulias, Logistics Team  
- Taki Vathis, Logistics Team & Meals  
- Vasilis Voresis, Meals Volunteer

We would also like to congratulate Danae Magoulias, FDF Director of Events, for receiving the Metropolitan Anthony Leadership Award for her leadership and initiative in planning and coordinating this year’s FDF.

Thank you to those community members that attended our Zumba fundraiser and to Cathy Hatzakos for leading us in such a fun morning!

In addition, we want to acknowledge that a portion of the sales from events hosted by Chrisa Pappas with Burberry, Fendi, and Christos Garkinos were donated to DSG, enabling Nea Genia to purchase this year’s beautiful award-winning Cretan costumes. Thank you, Chrisa!

Please look for upcoming information on our Spring general meeting and Board elections, hosting a Presanctified Liturgy Lenten Dinner (April 1st), and Holy Friday Luminary sales.
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**Greek Orthodox Church of the Annunciation, Sacramento, CA**

Greek Lent Begins

Great Lent Begins

**Greek Orthodox Church**

**Annunciation**

964 H St. | 661-492-2071 | 661-492-2071 | 661-492-2071 | 661-492-2071 | www.AnnunciationSac.org

**March 2020**

*www.AnnunciationSac.org*
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<td>6:00 pm Great Compline</td>
<td>7:30 am Men’s Fellowship @ Brookfields</td>
<td>11:00 am Studies in the Faith</td>
<td>5:30 pm Greek School</td>
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<td>7:15 pm Orthodoxy 101</td>
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<td>9:00 am Royal Hours</td>
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**April 2020 Calendar**

- **Fast Day**: 11:00 am
- **Palm Sunday**: 9:00 am Orthros
- **19th Sunday of Great Lent**: 9:00 am Orthros
- **Bright Monday**: 12:00 pm Agape Vespers
- **Great and Holy Pascha**: 9:00 am Orthros

**Notes**

- Our calendar is subject to change. For the most recently updated calendar please visit www.AnnunciationSac.org/master-calendar/
- Christ is Risen! Truly He is Risen!
ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO AT FDF 2020
On the first Tuesday of every month, our Youth Ministries gather for a short prayer service, followed by meetings supervised by a parent adviser, and with the spiritual guidance of Fr. James, Fr. Timothy, and Yianni. We invite all of our young people to attend and participate with their respective grade. Thank you to our coordinators and advisors, Audrey Bazos, Eleni Bourdaniotis, and Georganna Sinadinos!

We’ll see you at church, our next meeting, and at upcoming events!

Meet our Youth Ministries!
GOYA | 9-12th grade
Jr. GOYA | 6-8th Grade
JOY | 3-5th Grade

Upcoming Meetings & Events
March 3rd, 7:00 pm: GOYA, Jr. GOYA, & JOY Monthly Meeting
March 28th: Central Valley Youth Retreat
April 7th, 6:30 pm: GOYA, Jr. GOYA, & JOY Monthly Meeting
April 11th: Saturday of Lazarus, folding palm crosses, and youth retreat

Our Jr. GOYA, JOY, and GOYA had a wonderful Lock-in! We had pizza, played games, and had a wonderful discussion about our life and role in the Church, as well as how we prepare for Great Lent! Thank you to our parents who help run the lock-in!

YAL-Young Adult League (18-22 years old) Welcome! We are excited to announce our new YAL ministry! Please contact Yianni Magoulias for more information.

Young professionals (21-30ish years old) are invited to join our theological discussions, “Wisdom & Wine” which happen every month! Contact Yianni Magoulias for more information.

Please join us for tea & treats at a MYRRHBearer Meet & Greet
Sunday, March 8
Hellenic Center Foyer
Following the Divine Liturgy
Girls 2nd grade and up
Please RSVP to Nicki Hansen
at nicki.d.hansen@gmail.com

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS
YOUTH RETREAT

SESSIONS FOR ALL GRADES
- 9 am - 4 pm
- Divine Liturgy
- Folding Palm Crosses
- Lenten Pancake Breakfast
- Lenten Sessions and Discussions about Holy Week and Pascha

CONTACT YIANNI MAGOULIAS WITH QUESTIONS

The Annunciation Observer ✪ March/April 2020
Hellenic Golf Classic

SAVE THE DATE
FOR THE
11TH ANNUAL HELLENIC GOLF CLASSIC

Monday, June 1, 2020
Lincoln Hills Golf Club, Lincoln, CA

Contact Vivian Vail join the committee, volunteer or become a sponsor!

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival

Topics for the 2020 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival are online now! Start preparing your speech today! Prizes and scholarships for all participants.

For more information, please contact Andonia Cakouros (cakouros@icloud.com)

St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Dates

Parish Oratorical Festival, at Annunciation, Sacramento | March 29, 2020
District Oratorical Festival, at Annunciation, Sacramento | April 5, 2020
Metropolis Oratorical Festival, at St. Nicholas Ranch | May 8-9, 2020
National Oratorical Festival, at St. Spyridon, Loveland, Colorado | June 12-14, 2020

This year, our parish will host the Eastern California District Oratorical Festival! The two finalists from each division from the Greek Orthodox Churches in Northern/Central California will gather at our parish on Sunday, April 5th to present their hard work and research, and to speak about their faith! Please join us on both March 29th and April 5th to listen to and encourage our youth who have worked so hard preparing and practicing their rhetoric skills!

Younger Marrieds & Working Singles

Moms ‘n Tots is back! Join us on the third Saturday of every month for faith, fun activities, guest speakers, and wonderful Christian Fellowship. Every month is a little different, from spending time in church, to arts & crafts, and guest speakers. We’d love for you to join us! We’ll see you on March 21st!
Pledged Stewards 2020
(As of February 13, 2020)
ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

Peter Anagnoston
Milton & Panorea Apostolidis
Theodoros & Georgia Avdalas
Nicholas & Nikki Avdis
Dan & Katherine Ballas
Andreas & Audrey Bazos
David & Anastasia Bonaccorso
Denny Boom
Greg & Vicki Booros
Stephanie Bourbakis
Polihronis & Vicky Bourdaniotis
Ted & Lily Bourdaniotis
Marie Bravou
Anna Brusco
Katherine Buttacavoli
Andonia Cakouros
John & Jordan Cameron
Peter & Fotine Casheros
George & Koulia Cazanis
Taky & Georgiana Cazanis
Jack Chesson
John & Annette Christopulos
Bettina & Grigorios Chrysofakis
George & Christina Chuchas
James & Despina Chuchas
Peter & Samantha Colonelos
Antonia Const
George & Christine Dariotis
John & Nitsa Dariotis
Magdalene & Matthew David
Irene DeKellis
Edie Delegan
John & Marianna Demas
Lou Demas
Lou & Maria Deville
Stasis & Jody Diavatis
Tom Dicktakes
Nicholas & Laura Docous
Elizabeth Dokimos
Katherine Dole
Elaine Donovan
Demosthenis & Evangelia Douvexas
Marina Downing
William & Jessaca Downing
Demos & Bessie Dulger Sheikin
James & Patricia Duvaras
Georgia Econome
Elena & Aaron Edwards
Peter & Anastasia Efsthathi
Nicholas & Jeanne Efstratis
Dan & Maria Eriksson
Bill Evrigenis
Sophia Evrigenis
Samir & Nuha Fadayel
Michael & Elena Fazio
Vasiliki Fkiaras
Panayiotis Fotopoulos
Peter & Koula Fotopoulos
Phillip & Soula Fotopoulos
Agnes Fotos
Kyriako & Brenda Fotos
Ruseta Fotos
Christina & Robert Freeworth
Michael & Jennifer Freeworth
Maria Gassoumis
Andrew & Teresa Gates
Constantin & Micki Genigeorgis
Joann Georgallis
Perry Georgallis
Chris & Angie Georgouliais
Helen Gianakakis
Lener & Carmie Lee Gousetis
Paul Grellas
Louis & Georgette Grivetti
Suanna Gurovich
George Hagios
Elena Hankard
RJ & Nicki Hansen
Demetre & Dimitra Haralambakis
Dannan & Lisa Harr
Elias & Catherine Hatzakos
Richard & Kim Hauch
Steve & Bia Hayes
Tim & Elene Hayes
William Hess
Nikko Higdon
Julian B. & Diane Holt
Dino & Margarita Jakovas
Chris Jovalis
James & Robin Kafouros
Dennis & Robin Kamilos
Christopher & Kristen Kane
Gus & Ana Kapandritis
George & Mary Ellen Kassotakis
Terry Kastanis
Emorfia & Niko Katsimbras
Giorgos & Jenna Kazaras
Pamela & Andrew Kemp
Anthony & Gail Kentroti
Connie Keriotes
Denise Kincaid
Steven & Lindsey Kivetos
Peter & Jennie Kleary
Lucas & Stella Kontes
Nick & Bernadette Kontos
George Koufasimis
George Kouris
George & Rula Kouretas
Ivana Krstic
Constantino & Dena Kuchulis
Angela Kuchulis Gionopulos
John & Mary Kyriakides
Stephen & Anna LaBritt
Frances Lambrose
Dean & Diane Langley
Maria Lappas
Georgia Larson
Andrea Lendaris
Gary & Irina Leonard
Despina Liakopoulos
Esther Lilakos
Jesus & Helen Loaiza
Alice Loris-Lyons
Elaina & Gary Magana
Geraldine Mages
Efstratios "Yianni" & Danae
Magoulias
Chris & Maro Maguire
James Makris
Stanley Makris
Julie Mamalis
Athanasia Manikas
Exaveria (Rula) Manikas
Anne Manolakas
Katherine Manolakas
Sam & Kerry Manolakas
Timothy & Annette Manolis
Athanasios Manolopoulos
George & Marina Mantis
Antigoni Marcos
Katherine Marefos
Peter Margaris
Steve & Katherine Margaris
Nellie Margarite
Dennis & Nancy Marks
Antonios & Maria Mavroforakis
Pamela Middleton
Karen Nelson
George & Gaye Nicholau
Helen Nickolson & Lawrence Michel
Joanna Leventis & Benjamin Noonan
Howard & Stella Norris
Alice Ousley
Nick & Contilo Pandeleon
Peter & Gina Pandelopoulos
Yianni Pantis
Pledged Stewards 2020
(As of February 13, 2020 | Continued)

ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE TO THE ONE WHO BELIEVES IN CHRIST

John & Margaret Papadakis
John & Julienne Papagiannopoulos
Bessie Papailias
Eleni & Raymond Papailias-Gomez
Tasia Papajohn
Stephanie Papas
Kalliroy Pappas
Mary A. Pappas
Helen Paras
Paris & Helen Paraskevas
Perry & Kiki Parker
Jerry & Catherine Pavlatos
Paul & Shirley Peters
Diane Petersen
Michael & Stella Petrucci
Fotis & Tammy Petsalas
Nikolas & Nicole Pikios
Sofianos & Sara Piliotis
Bessie Pothos
Anthony Poulos
Lucky & Dina Poulos
Father James & Barbara Retelas
Father Timothy & Pres. Marsha Robinson
demetri & Malamo Romas
John & Penny Romas
Nicholas & Carol Rotas
George & Mary Roussas
Peter & Jodie Sakaris
Ronica Sarkisian Carlisle
Daniela & Andrew Schmidt
Thomas Sellas
Ralph & Vassie Sett
Roy & Dale Shults
Dean & Chrisa Sioukas
Demetrios Spyridakis
Stylianos & Klea Spyridakis
Vasilios Spyridakis
Steve & Rachel Squaglia
Charles & Florence Stamos
Merle Stathis
Makis & Freda Stathopoulos
Mary D. Stathos
Maria Stefanou
Art & Terre Terzakis
Maria & Christopher Theodor-Higdon
Elias Theodorakakis
Sophie Theodore
Tom Theofanis
Gregory & Mary Theophilopoulos
Pearl Thomas

Steven Tingus
Marian Trapp
Angelo & Sofia Tsakopoulos
Drosoula Tsakopoulos
Manuel & Dianna Tsihlas
Anna Tzikas
George Tzikas
Taki & Kristen Vathis
Stella Vescu
Michael & Arlene Vlamis
Paul & Rusti Voresis
Dimitri Vouros
Douglas & Donna Wagner
Richard & Valentina Watts
Dana & Donis Whaley
Maria Kostidou Workman
Jerry & Elaine Wright
George & Kathryn Wyatt
Theodora Yazigi
Andreas & Becky Yerocostas

Pledged Families: 224
LENTEN CENTRAL VALLEY YOUTH RETREAT
MARCH 28TH | ST. BASIL STOCKTON

Join GOYAs and Jr. GOYAs from the Central Valley parishes (Elk Grove, Fresno, Modesto, Reno, Roseville, and Stockton) for a Lenten Youth Retreat! Contact Yianni for more information!

Sign-up now online! Look for the link on social media and in the “This Week at Annunciation” e-mails!
Dennis Pantis, September 17, 1936—January 7, 2020

Dennis Pantis was the beloved father of Yianni Pantis and Evangelia Pantis and grandfather of Andreas Pantis and Sofia Pantis. He will be deeply missed by his children, grandchildren, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends.

The following is a poem written by his daughter, Evangelia:

He was a gentleman, and a kind of cool cat in part.
And when inspired, a true romantic at heart.

He always made time for those who came by,
He was an easygoing, a no-need-to-rush kind of a guy.

He loved his family, his sisters and brothers,
And was kind-hearted and generous with others.

His abundant heart was manifest in the kitchen as he prepared his company’s meals,
and was frugal with himself and often sought out good deals.

He loved the songs of birds, and watching nature was an event.
He seemed to have an inner world that was full and content.

His cup of Folgers was another’s Starbucks on the same block.

His BMW was a Bus, Metro, Walk

He built small palaces from scratch and scapes of his kind,
While keeping a vision of the Greek Gods in mind.

He cultivated many virtues naturally and unknowingly,
He took great care of his belongings, and always cleaning fastidiously.

He waltzed, he whistled and he walked,
And minded his own business when he talked.

He was the strong, silent type of man,
yet very funny and humor always at hand.

He paid reverence when time was due,
And kept an open mind and did not claim that he knew.

And as his abilities and hearing decreased over time,
conversing easily was a bit of a climb.

But we believe, Dad, that you can hear us now clearly,
As we say, We LOVE you Dad, and appreciate you so dearly.

You were the perfect father for us, in every way
and you are ALWAYS in our hearts day after day.

Bon voyage Dionysios Yiannis Pantis...your memory will be eternal.
Community Corner

Maria Pantis, August 23, 1941—October 31, 2019
She came to this Earth dancing with her wind and fire and sparked life in all that she did.
And even during the time of her illness, her essence was apparent and her kindness and good nature never failed to reveal themselves. She touched the hearts of many, and although we write this with broken hearts, our hearts will be forever transformed by virtue of her amazing spirit and lifelong example.
Mom...we are so grateful and honored to have you as our beautiful mother. Thank you.
Farewell sweet mother...we love you forever.

This song was composed, sung, and played for our beloved Maria by Evangelia’s treasured friend Maya Mavraki in Greece:

[Translation provided]

Annunciation Community Corner

Want to wish someone happy birthday, graduation, anniversary, etc? Choose your ad size (see rates below) tell us exactly what you want it to say (picture optional) and e-mail it to etheodor@annunciationsac.org

Rates for the Community Corner are:
$25.00 Quarter Page
$40.00 Half Page
$75.00 Full Page

For questions, please contact the Church Office at (916) 443-2033 ext. 222

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Kalē Sarakosta!  
Blessed Lent!

Join us during the journey of Great Lent!

Great Compline | Mondays 6:00 pm
Presanctified Liturgy | Wednesdays 6:00 pm
Salutations to the Theotokos | Fridays 7:00 pm

Annunciation of the Theotokos
Parish Feastday Celebration
Great Vespers | Tuesday, March 24th 7:00 pm
Divine Services | Wednesday, March 25th 9:00 am