

Sunday Before the Mativity of Christ December 21, 2025

The Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

December 21, 2025

Advent Fast (oil & wine allowed today) | Mode 3 | 6th Orthros Gospel

On this Lord's Day, the we remember all the Saints in the genealogy of our Lord Jesus Christ, especially the Patriarchs, Prophets, and Kings, and Joseph the Betrothed. We also remember Juliana of Nicomedia & her 630 Companion Martyrs; Themistocles the Martyr of Myra; and Peter, Metropolitan of Moscow.

Antiphon I. Mode 2. Psalm 103.

Verse 1: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and everything within me, bless His holy name.

Refrain: Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Verse 2: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His rewards.

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, Σῶτερ, σῶσον ἡμᾶς.

Verse 3: The Lord prepared His throne in heaven, and His Kingdom rules over all.

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us.

Antiphon II. Mode 2. Psalm 146.

Verse 1: Praise the Lord, O my soul! I shall praise the Lord while I live; I shall sing to my God as long as I exist.

Refrain: Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Verse 2: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob; his hope is in the Lord his God.

Σῶσον ἡμᾶς Υἱὲ Θεοῦ, ὁ ἀναστὰς ἐκ νεκρῶν, ψάλλοντάς σοι, Ἀλληλούϊα.

Verse 3: The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, to all generations.

Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Both now and ever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Only begotten Son and Logos of God....

Third Antiphon. Resurrectional Apolytikion. Mode 3.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ἄδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσγε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Let the heavens sing for joy, and let everything on earth be glad. For with His Arm the Lord has worked power. He trampled death under foot by means of death; and He

became the firstborn from the dead. From the maw of Hades He delivered us; and He granted the world His great mercy.

Apolytikion of the Forefeast, Mode 4: Έτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἤνοικται πᾶσιν ἡ Ἐδέμ. Εὐτρεπίζου Ἐφραθᾶ, ὅτι τὸ ξύλον τῆς ζωῆς, ἐν τῷ Σπηλαίῳ ἐξήνθησεν ἐκ τῆς Παρθένου. Παράδεισος καὶ γάρ, ἡ ἐκείνης γαστήρ, ἐδείχθη νοητός, ἐν ῷ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὖ φαγόντες ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἀδὰμ τεθνηξόμεθα. Χριστὸς γεννᾶται, τὴν πρὶν πεσοῦσαν, ἀναστήσων εἰκόνα.

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life *has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image.

Apolytikion for the Forefathers, Mode 2: Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! Ἐν τῆ πηγῆ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, σῶσον τὰς ψυχὰς ἡμῶν.

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

Apolytikion of the Church, Mode 4: Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ Κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος Μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις, ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τὴ Θεοτόκω βοήσωμεν Χαῖρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Today is the crowning moment of our salvation, and the unfolding of the eternal mystery: the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel brings the good tidings of grace. Therefore with him let us also cry aloud to the Mother of God: Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.

Festal Kontakion, Mode 4: Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπόρρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, Παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word* in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God.

After the Trisagion Hymn:

Prokeimenon of the Apostle. Mode 4. The Prayer of Azariah.

Blessed are you, O Lord God of our fathers. For You are righteous in all you did for us.

The Reading is from the Holy Apostle Paul to the Hebrews (11:9-10; 32-40): BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets – who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated – of whom the world was not worthy – wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Alleluia

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew (1:1-25): The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham...

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you

shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called "Immanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM

Parish Council: Team B

Milt Apostolidis – Team Leader, Nick Avdis, George Chuchas, Michael Dariotis, Stella Dariotis, Maria Sampanis

Altar Guild

Georgia Avdalas

PUBLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINES

SUNDAY BULLETIN - Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

Limited to Annunciation parish and parochial ministry activities and announcements

WEEKLY EMAIL BLAST - Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

QUARTERLY OBSERVER - March 10th to observer@annunciationsac.org

2025 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

On Sunday, December 14, four candidates ran for four open Parish Council positions. We are pleased to announce the following individuals have been elected: Miltiadis Apostolidis, Nick Avdis, Chris S. Georgoulias, and Demetri Romas.

Their three-year term begins January 2026. We are grateful to the qualified and dedicated stewards of our beloved Annunciation who offered to serve in this important leadership capacity for the glory of God.





CHRIST IS BORN glorify Him!

JOIN OUR CHURCH FAMILY IN WORSHIP TO CELEBRATE THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

CHRISTMAS MORNING

ORTHROS 9:00AM DIVINE LITURGY 10:00AM





PHILOPTOCHOS ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINTER COAT DRIVE

On Monday, December 15th, we delivered 67 coats to the Leataata Floyd Elementary School. This was 27 coats more than last year! Philoptochos would not be able to help as many children who need a warm coat without your support.



SOCK DRIVE

Please put your donations of socks on the **Red Cart** as we will continue our sock drive for another week. Thank you, Annunciation Parishioners, for your generosity and support to help those in need.

NEW WEBSITE





2025 CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE Order Now!







Christmas Table



Scan the QR code or visit us online at https://annunciation-greek-orthodox-ladies-philoptochos.square.site/ You may also email Despina DespinaDemas@outlook.com or call (916) 826-7176

PICK UP ORDERS ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 14 & 21 AT THE ANNUNCIATION HELLENIC

CENTER FROM 12 NOON TO 2:00 P.M.



·		
Namo	Phone	Date Ordered

		Quantity	Cost
Baklava	\$25 per dozen		
Baklava pan (9x13)	\$45		
Koulourakia	\$12 per dozen		<u> </u>
Kourabiethes	\$25 per dozen	·	
Kourabiethes with Almonds	\$25 per dozen	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Melomakarona	\$25 per dozen		
Pastitsio (half pan)	\$45.00		-
Spanakopita	\$25 per pan (9% x 7 %)		
Combination (4 Baklava, 4 Kourabiethes, 4 Melomakarona, 4 Koulourakia)	\$25 per box	-	

Total	
IUlai	



erry Christmas





COMPLETE your CHRISTMAS







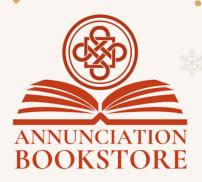


Stop by the Philoptochos Table in the Foyer on Sunday December 14 & Sunday December 21 for Gifts that Keep on Giving









Great Christmas, Baptism and Hostess Gifts For This Nativity Season

We have beautiful items for Christmas and home, along with thoughtful gifts for hostesses, friends, godchildren—or a little treat for yourself.

Explore our Seasonal Table on the left with new books and gifts, and don't miss the new arrivals from Greece on the icon wall, including our latest cross pendants.

We're also excited to share that we will soon carry a sterling silver pendant inspired by our signature parish cross.

And great news—all icons in the cabinets are now 50% off! Browse the list and see what treasures are available.

Have questions? Contact us at bookstore@annunciationsac.org

Open Sundays after Divine Liturgy





COSTUME CLOTHING DONATIONS NEEDED!

Before we begin to purchase costumes, we are asking for your help!



LATE 1800s-EARLY 1900s INSPIRED CLOTHING

- Long dresses or skirts
- Simple blouses
- Knit cardigans
- Sweater vests
- Neutral or muted colors



1950s "CHURCH CLOTHES" FOR BOYS & GIRLS

- · Dresses with color
- · Button-down shirts
- Sweaters
- Vests or slacks



Kids' Large-XL

Adult Small-Medium

Please drop off donations in the designated box by the costume room before December 21



DIVE FOR THE CROSS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026 2:00PM

AT THE DARIOTIS FAMILY HOME

GRADES 1ST-12TH
DIVERS WILL BE GROUPED BY GRADE

REGISTER BY JANUARY 2 AT tiny.cc/dive26

CONTACT NICKI HANSEN WITH QUESTIONS NHANSEN@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG



ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE DIVINE LITURGY & COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

JOIN US FOR THE DIVINE LITURGY AS WE CELEBRATE THE SYNAXIS OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST AND A MORNING OF PRAYER, FELLOWSHIP, AND FRIENDSHIP WITH OUR ASL COMMUNITY

JANUARY 7
10:00 AM

ANNUNCIATION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
SACRAMENTO





ALTAR BOY REGISTRATION 2025-2026

2nd Grade and Up

Visit tiny.cc/altar2526

Please contact Gary Leonard with questions garypleonard@hotmail.com



REGISTRATION STILL OPEN FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR

DIVINE LITURGY BEGINS AT 10:00AM CLASSES BEGIN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HOLY COMMUNION

Please contact sundayschool@annunciationsac.org with questions





Epistle Reading Program

The Epistle Reading Program is open to our parish youth (ages 10+) and is a wonderful opportunity for our children to take part in the Divine Liturgy on Sundays, and serve our community!

Please register and select reading dates at the link below. A confirmation will be emailed, along with the reading(s) for the selected date(s). Assistance is available to prepare new readers. Readers are needed every Sunday.

Please contact Nicki Hansen at nhansen@annunciationsac.org with questions.





BEAUTIFYING THE LITURGICAL EXPERIENCE



Our parish is undertaking a special campaign to replace and renew several liturgical items that have fallen into disrepair. These sacred vessels and furnishings are not merely functional, they reflect our love and reverence for God, and the beauty of our worship. Your generosity will help ensure that the Divine Services are celebrated with the dignity and splendor worthy of the Lord.

Please prayerfully consider contributing to this effort. If you are interested in learning more and would like to see a full list of items needed, please email Fr. Vinnie at frvincent@annunciationsac.org



INTRODUCTION TO THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN CHURCH

DO YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORTHODOX FAITH?

In recent months, our Parish has been blessed with a number of people inquiring about the Faith. Are you among these inquirers? Or are you Orthodox, but you feel you need to learn more about your Faith? We would like to share the Faith with you in an organized and systematic way. Beginning Monday, September 22, the Autumnal Equinox(!), and continuing until Holy Week and Pascha, we will be offering an Introduction to the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church. We will meet in the downstairs Conference Room in the Hellenic Center most of the time and from time to time in the upstairs classroom 2206. Class will begin at 6pm (7pm during Lent) and meet for about an hour plus. If you cannot come in person, but you would like to participate via Zoom, please tell us, and we will endeavor to accommodate you as much as possible.

If you are interested in attending this class, please email me at frtimothy@annunciationsac.org. I want your name and an email address!

Fr. Timothy Robinson Associate Priest

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- BESIDES HANDOUTS THAT I WILL EMAIL TO YOU BEFORE CLASS MEETS, PLEASE OBTAIN A COPY OF REV. FR. MICHAEL SHANBOUR, KNOW THE FAITH: A HANDBOOK FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIANS AND INQUIRERS (ANCIENT FAITH PUBLISHING, 2019). THIS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN OUR BOOKSTORE VERY SOON. IT IS ALSO AVAILABLE NOW DIRECTLY FROM ANCIENT FAITH OR FROM AMAZON IN PRINT OR VIA KINDLE.
- A MODERN LANGUAGE BIBLE, E.G. THE ORTHODOX STUDY BIBLE, OR AN EDITION OF THE NEW KING JAMES OR NEW AMERICAN BIBLE (ROMAN CATHOLIC) OR NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE (ECUMENICAL).





THIS WEEK AT ANNUNCIATION EMAIL

Get updates, events, and news in your inbox every week



Subscribe at mailchi.mp/annunciationsac/subscribe



PARISH CALENDAR

Service times, events, and activities — all in one place



Visit tiny.cc/parishcalendar



INSTAGRAM

Photos, events, links, and more — right at your fingertips



@annunciationsac



FACEBOOK

Live services, parish photos, and community updates



Visit facebook.com/annunciation.sacramento

Become a Sponsor! COFFEE HOUR FELLOWSHIP

The members of Philoptochos want to thank our parishioners who support us throughout the year by sponsoring Annunciation's Sunday coffee hours and bringing pastry and goodies to share. Your sponsorship and sharing promotes fellowship, and we are so grateful.

Please consider hosting a coffee hour anytime during the year! Cookies, fruit, or a cake would be great! Coffee will be made for you.

Contact Donna Wagner at (916) 214-9794 to secure a date for hosting a regular coffee hour. When contacting Effie in the church office to schedule a memorial, please let her know if you also wish to host coffee fellowship. Effie can be reached in the office at (916) 443-2033 ext 222.





We're so glad you are here with us today!

If you are visiting, we warmly invite you to join us next door in the Hellenic Center following the Divine Liturgy for coffee fellowship.

Be sure to stop by the Welcoming Table during coffee fellowship to meet our team, ask questions, and learn more about our faith, parish, and ministries.

We look forward to greeting you!

STEWARDSHIP 2025

"Give, and it shall be given unto you."

Luke 6:38



STEWARDSHIP FACTS

Q: DO MY RECURRING STEWARDSHIP PAYMENTS ROLLOVER FROM YEAR-TO-YEAR?

A: In past years, recurring stewardship payments have NOT rolled over to the next year and stewards were required to create new pledges and payments at the beginning of the year. For 2025, recurring payments from 2024 will continue on unless stopped by the giver. If you would like to check your 2025 stewardship status or make changes to your recurring payment, please login to your PushPay account at pushpay.com/login or contact the Annunciation Financial Office at accounting@annunciationsac.org.

Q: WHAT DOES MY STEWARDSHIP PAY FOR?

A: In 2025, it will cost approximately \$3,500/day to keep the church open. Most operating expenses are paid from stewardship. Some examples are utilities, office staff and pastoral salaries, candles, permits, security, and facilities maintenance. Additional costs are directly related to church-funded ministries and programs.

Q: I ALREADY PAY FOR GREEK DANCE, GREEK SCHOOL, ETC. WHY DO I HAVE TO ALSO PAY FOR STEWARDSHIP?

A: These programs operate independently from our general operating budget. The church provides the facility, in addition to facility-related expenses, enabling their operation and receives no money from these ministries. It is also important that families participating in our children's ministries be currently pledged stewards.

Make your pledge online at <u>annunciationsac.org/stewardship</u> or return a pledge card to the Church Office



Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, Sacramento • 616 Alhambra Blvd • Sacramento, CA 95816 • (916) 443-2033

Please visit the Stewardship Table during coffee fellowship to learn more about our mission and how we strengthen our parish community with our time, talent, and treasure.

December 21-28

Sunday, December 21 Sunday Before Nativity

9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Sunday School Christmas Program

Greek Dance Practices

Monday, December 22 5:30pm Greek Dance Practices

Wednesday, December 24 10:00am Great Hours of Christmas

6:00pm Vesperal Divine Liturgy of Christmas

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 25 The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 28 Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy

Family Church Day - No Sunday School Classes

*Merry Christmas*Christ is born! Glorify Him!

THE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

600 Alhambra Blvd. Sacramento, California 95816 (mailing address 616 Alhambra)

OUR MISSION is to bring all people to full maturity in Christ through Worship (Liturgia), Service (Diakonia), Education (Paideia), Witness (Martyria) and Fellowship (Koinonia), guided and united in all things by the One Holy Spirit.

If you are visiting with us this morning, you are most welcome! Please fill out a Visitor's Card in the Narthex. If you have questions about the Orthodox Christian faith, our schedule of services, or becoming a member of the parish, please go to our website at www.annunciationsac.org, or contact the church office to speak with one of the Priests (M-F, 9 am – 3:30 pm, phone (916) 443-2033).

Be sure to visit our Bookstore in the Annunciation Hellenic Center. The Bookstore is open Sundays after Church or contact bookstore@annunciationsac.org for an appointment.

Rev. Fr. Vincent Minucci, Presiding Priest | frvincent@annunciationsac.org Rev. Fr. Timothy Robinson, Associate Priest | frtimothy@annunciationsac.org

616 Alhambra Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95816 Office: (916) 443-2033 | Office Hours Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:30pm www.annunciationsac.org