



SUNDAY OF THE HOLY CROSS
MARCH 15, 2026

The Third Sunday of Great Lent

Sunday of the Holy Cross

March 15, 2026

Lenten Fast. Wine & oil allowed | Grave Mode | 7th Orthros Gospel

This Sunday we observe the Third Sunday of Great and Holy Lent on which we remember the Precious and Life-Giving Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and the joy of all the world. We also remember Agapius the Martyr & His Companions; Manuel the New Martyr of Crete; and the Holy Apostle Aristobulos of the Seventy, Bishop of Britain.

Festal Antiphon I. Mode 2.

Verse 1: O Lord, the light of Your face was stamped upon us.

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

Verse 2: You gave a sign to those who fear You, so they may flee from the face of the bow.

Ταῖς πρεσβείαις τῆς Θεοτόκου, Σῶτερ, σῶσον ἡμᾶς.

Verse 3: You ascended on high, You led captivity captive.

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

Verse 4: You give an inheritance to those who fear Your name, O Lord.

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.

Festal Antiphon II. Mode 2.

Verse 1: All the ends of the earth saw the salvation of our God.

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

Verse 2: Let us worship at the place where His feet stood.

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

Verse 3: God is our King before the ages; He worked salvation in the midst of the earth.

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

Verse 4: I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.

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. Festal Apolytikion. Mode 1.

Save, O Lord, Your people and bless Your inheritance, granting victory to the faithful over the enemy, and by Your Cross protecting Your commonwealth.

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκας τοῖς βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος, καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

Resurrectional Apolytikion, Grave Mode: Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου τὸν θάνατον, ἠνέωξας τῷ Ληστῇ τὸν Παράδεισον, τῶν Μυροφόρων τὸν θρῆνον μετέβαλες, καὶ τοῖς σοῖς Ἀποστόλοις κηρύττειν ἐπέταξας· ὅτι ἀνέστης Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, παρέχων τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

By means of Your Cross, O Lord, You abolished death. To the robber You opened Paradise. The lamentation of the myrrh-bearing women You transformed, and You gave Your Apostles the order to proclaim to all that You had risen, O Christ our God, and granted the world Your great mercy.

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 τῇ Θεοτόκῳ 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 Plagal 4: Τῇ ὑπερμάχῳ στρατηγῷ τὰ νικητήρια, ὧς λυτρωθεῖσα τῶν δεινῶν εὐχαριστήρια, Ἀναγράφω σοι ἡ Πόλις σου Θεοτόκε. Ἄλλ' ὡς ἔχουσα τὸ κράτος ἀπροσμάχητον, Ἐκ παντοίων με κινδύνων ἐλευθέρωσον, ἵνα κράζω σοι· Χαῖρε νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.

Instead of the Trisagios Hymn:

We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Τὸν Σταυρόν σου προσκυνοῦμεν, Δέσποτα, καὶ τὴν ἀγίαν σου ἀνάστασιν δοξάζομεν.

Prokeimenon of the Apostle. Mode Plagal 2. Psalm 27.

O Lord, save Your people and bless Your inheritance.

To You, O Lord, I cry, O my God. May You not pass me over in silence.

The Reading is from the Holy Apostle Paul's Letter to the Hebrews (4:14-16;5:1-6): BRETHERN, since we have a high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. Because of this he is bound to offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not take the honor upon himself, but he is called by God, just as Aaron was. So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "Thou art my Son, today I have begotten thee"; as he says also in another place, "Thou art a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Alleluia

The Gospel Reading is from Mark (8:34-38; 9:1): The Lord said: "If anyone wishes to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will

lose it; and whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel's will save it. For what does it profit a man, to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of man also be ashamed, when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels." And he said to them, "Truly, I say to you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the kingdom of God come with power."

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT



Parish Council: Team B

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

Altar Guild

Alexis Genung, Nicolette Madrid

Memorial

Nick Stathos (40 days)

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

2026

HOLY WEEK & PASCHA NEEDS

As of 3/9/26

DESCRIPTION/ PURPOSE	TOTAL COST	RECEIVED TO DATE
Pascha Stationery, Bulletin & Postage	\$900	\$0
Flowers/Daffodils - 3rd Sunday of Lent	\$250	\$0
Palm Fronds - Palm Sunday	\$475	\$0
Stefani/Wreath - Holy Thursday	Varies	Completed
Boutonnieres - Holy Friday & Saturday	Varies	Completed
Epitaphio Procession Permits, Police Escort	\$3,200	\$0
Epitaphio Flowers & Supplies	Varies	Completed
Epitaphio Candles	\$125	\$0
Candles - Holy Friday & Saturday Nights	\$1,400	\$0
Candle Cups - Holy Friday & Saturday Nights	\$470	\$0
Clergy Paschal Candles	\$400	\$0
Communion Wine	\$400	\$0
Visiting Chantor & Seminarian	\$4,250	\$0
Red Eggs & Dye	\$225	\$0
Anastasi Dinner	\$2,000	\$0
Holy Week Private Security	\$900	\$0

WAYS TO DONATE

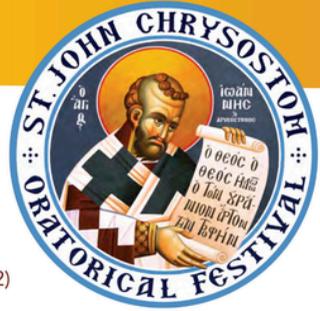
- **CHECK** Submit a check to the Church Office. Make checks payable to *Annunciation GOC* with *Pascha needs* and items listed in the memo.
- **ONLINE** Visit tiny.cc/pascha2026 or scan the QR code below.



Your donation towards these costs, in any amount, is truly appreciated.

2026 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

JUNIOR DIVISION (GRADES 7-9) | SENIOR DIVISION (GRADES 10-12)



ANNUNCIATION PARISH FESTIVAL SUNDAY, MARCH 15

JUNIOR DIVISION SPEAKERS

Magdalene Bourdaniotis • Topic 2
Adriana Leventis-Noonan • Topic 4
Benjamin Leventis-Noonan • Topic 2
Antonia Panayotopoulos • Topic 5
Catherine Popescu • Topic 2
Theo Voudouris • Topic 5

JUDGES

Nicholas Rotas, D.D.S.
Maria Sampanis, Ph.D.
Vasilios Spyridakis, J.D.

TIMEKEEPER

Dianna Tsihlas

COORDINATOR

Katina Bostanzoglou

SCHEDULE

10:00am Divine Liturgy • *Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church*
12:00pm Coffee Fellowship • *Annunciation Hellenic Center*
12:15pm Speaker Registration & Orientation • *Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church*
12:30pm Oratorical Festival Begins / Opening Prayer & Welcome • *Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church*
12:35pm Junior Division Speakers
1:05pm Judges' Deliberation / Refreshments • *Annunciation Hellenic Center*
1:35pm Announcement of Finalists • *Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church*
1:40pm Closing Prayer & Photo

ST. JOHN CHRYSOTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION (DRE)
GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
www.goarch.org/oratorical



MYRRHBEARERS

Girls 2nd grade and up



Practices

Sunday, March 8 - following the Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 15 - following the Divine Liturgy
Sunday, March 29 - following the Divine Liturgy
Saturday of Lazarus, April 4 - following the Lenten Youth Retreat
Palm Sunday, April 5 - following the Divine Liturgy
Holy Friday, April 10 - following the Great Hours

Meet in the Sunday School pews

Services

Holy Friday, April 10 - The Descent from the Cross - 2:45pm (optional)
Holy Friday, April 10 - The Service of the Lamentations - 6:45pm
Holy Saturday, April 11 - Vespertal Liturgy of St. Basil - 10:00am (optional)
Holy Saturday, April 11 - Vigil of Pascha - 11:00pm (optional)



Registration required at tiny.cc/myrrhbearer

We ask that participants attend a minimum of three practices

A limited number of white dresses in various sizes are available for use

Please contact nhansen@annunciationsac.org with any questions

Lenten Retreat

Anchoring One's Life in Christ: Relationships With God, Self and Others

WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER
MICHELLE MOUJAES
FROM FAITHTREE RESOURCES

Saturday, March 21

Annunciation Hellenic Center

Registration: \$15

9:30 am *Registration & Coffee*
10:00 am *Sessions 1 & 2*
12:00 pm *Lunch*
1:00 pm *Final Session with Q & A*



Scan code
to register

About Michelle Moujaes



Michelle Moujaes is the founder and Executive Director of Faithtree Resources and has held ministry leadership positions for over 30 years. With a background in Community Organizing and graduate studies that emphasize organizing communities of faith, Michelle earned her MSW while actively working in the film and television industry. Michelle's passion is bringing her two worlds of production and ministry together by supporting pastors and lay leaders in their ministries as well as by creating materials that engage and inspire the people in the pews. When she's not speaking or creating content for Faithtree, she can be found spending time with her husband and their four children or volunteering at St. Michael Church in Van Nuys, her home parish.

SPONSORED BY ANNUNCIATION PHILOPTOCHOS

PLEASE CONTACT ANNUNCIATIONSACEVENTS@YAHOO.COM WITH QUESTIONS



BY THE GRACE OF GOD
AND THROUGH THE APOSTOLIC TRADITION
OF THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

HIS EMINENCE
METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS
OF SAN FRANCISCO

WILL ORDAIN
DEMETRIUS THALES DOGIAS
TO THE HOLY DIACONATE

SUNDAY, MARCH 22ND, 2026

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
616 ALHAMBRA BLVD
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816
UNITED STATES

9:00 AM ORTHROS
10:00 AM HIERARCHICAL DIVINE LITURGY

WE HUMBLY REQUEST YOUR
PRAYERS AND PRESENCE

Luncheon reservations are required by Wednesday, March 18
to tiny.cc/ordination2026



ANNUNCIATION OF THE THEOTOKOS

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Great Vespers for the Annunciation 6:00 p.m.

Coffee Reception

Hosted by Annunciation Philoptochos

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25

Orthros 9:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Flag Raising Ceremony

AHEPA, Sacramento Chapter

Parish Feast Day Luncheon

Hosted by Annunciation Parish Council

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Orthros 9:00 a.m. • Divine Liturgy 10:00 a.m.

Greek Independence Day Coffee Hour Celebration

Special Performances by Annunciation Greek School and Greek Dance



ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO
LENTEN
YOUTH
RETREAT
2026

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

APRIL 4 | 10AM - 3PM | GRADES TK-12

DIVINE LITURGY • LENTEN BREAKFAST
TYING OF THE PALM CROSSES
LESSONS • ACTIVITIES & FUN

REGISTER AT tiny.cc/youthretreat26

REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY APRIL 1

CONTACT NHANSEN@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG WITH QUESTIONS



JOIN OUR ANNUNCIATION FAMILY FOR

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

9:00AM ORTHROS, 10:00AM DIVINE LITURGY

FOLLOWED BY A LENTEN BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY PHILOPTOCHOS
AND TYING OF THE PALM CROSSES



Save the date

Annunciation Philoptochos Society's annual

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Immediately following the Divine Liturgy
Annunciation Hellenic Center

Additional details & reservation information coming soon



PASCHA PICNIC

AT HELLENIC PARK, LINCOLN

SUNDAY, APRIL 12, 2026

**GATES OPEN AT 7:00AM
AGAPE VESPERS AT 12:00PM**

HELLENIC PARK
4775 Moore Road
Lincoln, CA 95648

-  Please bring your own tables and chairs
-  Park grounds have electricity, running water & restrooms
-  All are welcome to attend
-  Free admission

DIRECTIONS

Hwy 80 towards Reno, Exit Hwy 65 North towards Lincoln
Left on Twelve Bridges, Left on Industrial Blvd
Right on Athena Rd, Right on Fiddyment
Left on Moore, Right on Ferreira Rd

Picnic will be held weather permitting

For more information, please contact Chris Georgoulis
(916) 541-6124 or cgeorgoulis@gmail.com

Sponsored by the Hellenic Orthodox
Education & Cultural Center

Philoptochos *Easter Baking Day*

Philoptochos will be selling koulourakia for Pascha. If you would like to help with making koulourakia, please join us!

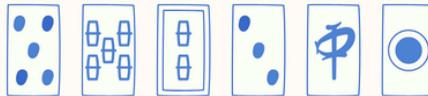
Monday, March 9
Monday, March 16
Monday, March 23
Friday, March 27
Monday, March 30
Friday, April 3

9:00am

Annunciation Hellenic Center Kitchen

ANNUNCIATION SENIOR LEAGUE

Mahjong Group



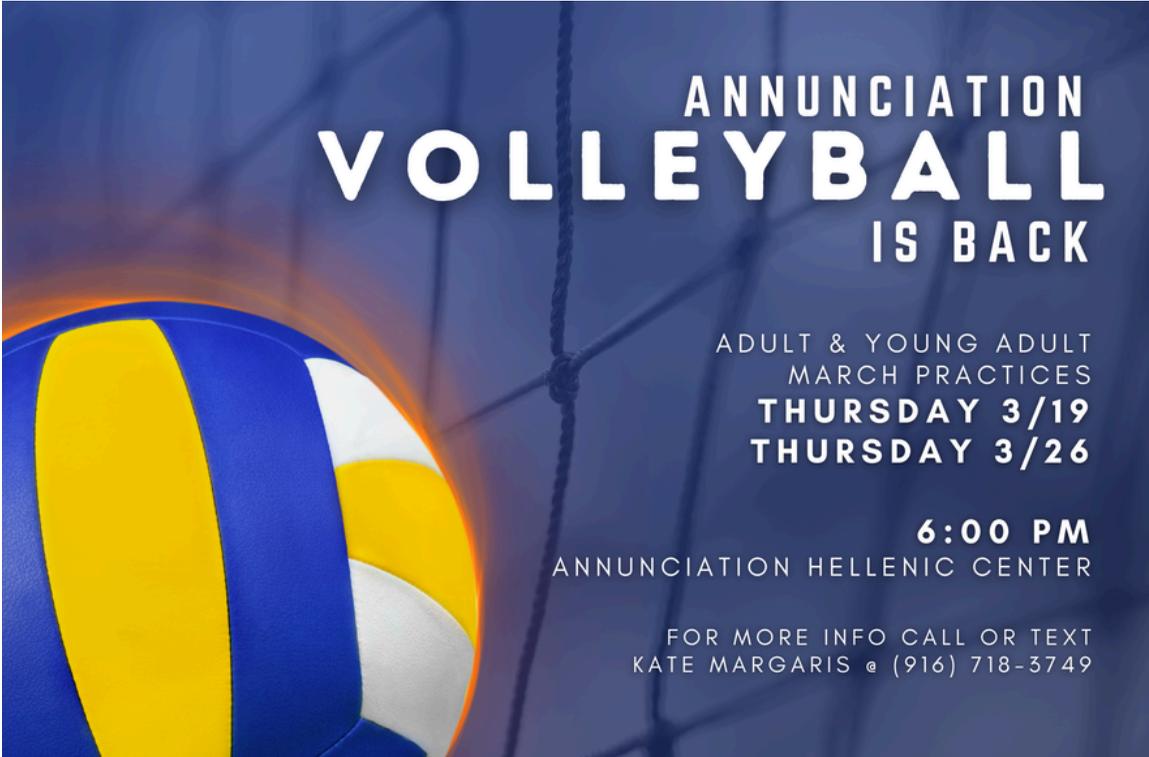
The Annunciation Senior League invites you to join us every Friday for Mahjong and good company. Whether you're an experienced player or brand new to the game, you're welcome to join us as we learn together, share conversation, and enjoy time in fellowship.

Mahjong offers a wonderful opportunity to exercise the mind while building friendships within our parish community. All ages and skill levels are welcome!

FRIDAYS
10:00 AM

ANNUNCIATION
PARISH LIBRARY

Please contact Bernadette Kontos with questions
bernadettekre1985@gmail.com or (916) 505-3946



ANNUNCIATION VOLLEYBALL IS BACK

ADULT & YOUNG ADULT
MARCH PRACTICES
THURSDAY 3/19
THURSDAY 3/26

6:00 PM
ANNUNCIATION HELLENIC CENTER

FOR MORE INFO CALL OR TEXT
KATE MARGARIS @ (916) 718-3749

2026 YOUTH VOLLEYBALL REGISTRATION

THIRD GRADE AND UP

VISIT tiny.cc/youthvolleyball26

REGISTRATION & TOURNAMENT PARTICIPATION REQUIRED

**TEAM FORMATION AND PRACTICE DETAILS TO
FOLLOW PENDING SUFFICIENT REGISTRATIONS**

FOR MORE INFO CALL OR TEXT KATE MARGARIS @ (916) 718-3749





SUNDAY SCHOOL

Building a solid foundation for Christian education and formation

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



BOOKS • GIFTS • ICONS • JEWELRY • CANDLES • CHILDREN'S BOOKS & MORE
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY

Visit us after liturgy today for wonderful baptism gifts, icons, children's books and items, good reads, cross jewelry, monastery incense for the home, and more!

We now have the sterling silver cross in stock.
This cross has been uniquely designed for us
using our parish cross and is just beautiful.



SALE - various items now on sale - check them out before they sell out!

Thank you for your support. Your purchases help
the Bookstore give back to our parish community.

Contact us at bookstore@annunciationsac.org



SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 15-18

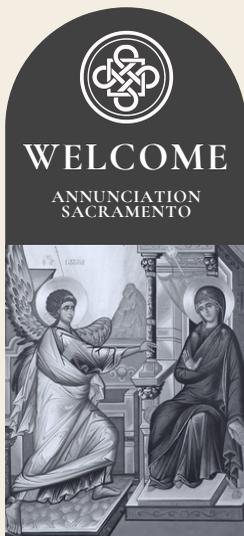
**DETAILS & REGISTRATION
COMING SOON**

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!



STAY CONNECTED



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](https://www.instagram.com/annunciationsac)



FACEBOOK

Live services, parish photos, and community updates

Visit facebook.com/annunciation.sacramento





STEWARDSHIP 2026

Every photo tells the story of a moment made possible by stewardship—youth growing in the faith, families worshipping together, ministries serving others, and the traditions that strengthen our parish life.

Our Annunciation community thrives because of the dedication, involvement, and generosity of parishioners like you. For many, Annunciation is where lifelong friendships were formed and core memories were made growing up in the life of the Church. For others, it has become a welcoming spiritual home where new memories are being created, one faithful step at a time. Together, these moments weave the story of our parish.

Your commitment ensures that these ministries, memories, and experiences continue now and for the generations yet to come. Thank you for supporting the mission and life of our parish and for being an essential part of our Annunciation family.

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



Please visit the Stewardship Table during coffee fellowship to learn more about our mission and how we strengthen our parish community together.

MARCH 15-22

- Sunday, March 15** **Sunday of the Holy Cross**
9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy
Sunday School Classes
Myrrhbearer Practice
12:30pm Parish Oratorical Festival
- Monday, March 16** 9:00am Philoptochos Easter Baking
6:00pm Great Compline
7:00pm Introduction to the Eastern Orthodox Christian Church
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting
- Wednesday, March 18** 10:30am Bridge-Dominoes Group Meeting
6:00pm Greek School Classes
6:00pm Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts
Presanctified Lenten Supper - *Hosted by DSG*
Last Day to Submit Ordination Luncheon Reservations
- Thursday, March 19** 10:00am ASL Board Meeting
6:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
- Friday, March 20** 10:00am Mahjong Group Meeting
1:30pm Annunciation Historical Group Meeting
6:00pm Salutations to the Theotokos: Fourth Stanza
Central Valley Lenten GOYA Retreat
- Saturday, March 21** 9:30am Lenten Retreat Hosted by Philoptochos
5:00pm Great Vespers
- Sunday, March 22** **Sunday of St. John Climacus**
8:30am Orthros, 10:00am Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Family Church Day - No Sunday School Classes
Ordination of Demetrius Dogias to the Holy Diaconate
Ordination Luncheon - *Reservation Required by March 18*

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