



## ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FR. JAMES RETELAS, PRESIDING PRIEST

St. Gregory the Illuminator of Armenia  
September 30, 2020

*"I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy;  
In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple"*

Psalm 5:7

Dear Faithful of Annunciation,

Good news!

As of Tuesday, September 29, the status of activities for Sacramento County allows for places of worship to open with modifications. For Annunciation, we can now have up to 100 people in Church (25% of our capacity). All services will be held in Church as of today, including this evening's service of supplication, the Small Paraklesis to the Theotokos at 6 pm. Please review our updated guidelines and protocols which will be in place, so don't forget your masks!

This Sunday, we will also be holding our Parish Assembly, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. We plan to do so in the safest way possible and will be observing all social distancing protocols.

Looking forward to being together for worship as one Church family, I am,

Yours in Christ,

Father James Retelas



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## *How Should I Prepare?*

- Be patient! We want you to return, but we want it to be accomplished in a safe and organized manner.
- If you are exhibiting any signs of illness, even symptoms not related to COVID-19, we ask that, for your own safety and those around you, please do not attend services.
- If you do not have a mask, please obtain one. Masks are required to be worn at this time when inside the church.
- Please bring hand sanitizer with you. There will also be hand sanitizer available in the Narthex to use upon your arrival to church.

## *What Should I Expect When I Come to Church?*

- We can accommodate approximately 100 people in our church; that includes the Clergy, Parish Council, chanters, acolytes, and parishioners. Overflow seating will be available if needed.
- Only the main doors of the church will be open (on Alhambra).
- Before entering the church, expect to have your temperature checked and to answer a symptoms-questionnaire by our Parish Council and reopening committee volunteers.
- Your attendance will be recorded, including your current phone number, so that should contact tracing be necessary, the parish will have a clear record of who was present for each service.
- Masks are to be worn by parishioners during church services. Parental supervision is required for children over the age of 3 who are wearing masks. Children under the age of 2 are exempt from wearing masks.
- Veneration of icons should be done by bowing before the icon and making the sign of the cross; it is not necessary to kiss the icon at this time.
- Bulletins will be distributed with the hymns and readings of the day, as well the weekly schedule. They are to remain on your person and not passed or shared to other parishioners. Please do not leave them in the pews after the service.
- Please, no handshaking, hugging, or physical contact with other parishioners.

## *What Should I Expect When I am in Church?*

- Please understand that due to occupancy limitations and social distancing, seating will be clearly marked and carefully monitored.
- Please be respectful of social distancing in the church and only sit in the designated pews with your immediate household (people living in the same space and who arrived in the same vehicle).
- There will be specific directions for safely entering and exiting the church to maintain social distancing. Please follow the instruction of the Clergy and Parish Council members.



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO

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- You will be dismissed by a Parish Council member or volunteer for when to receive Holy Communion and *Antidoron*. Please follow social distancing practices when approaching for Holy Communion and to receive *Antidoron*.
- When receiving Holy Communion, please do not touch the Communion cloth, give your baptismal name.
- When receiving Holy Communion, you are encouraged to lean your head back and open your mouth wide, so the priest may pour the Holy Eucharist into your mouth.
- *Antidoron* will be distributed only at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy by the priest, following strict protocols.
- Please refrain from kissing the hand of the priest.
- Parishioners are kindly requested not to linger on the church property. No social gatherings or coffee fellowship hour will be hosted at this time.
- After each service, the church will be thoroughly cleaned and sanitized.
- Our Clergy will offer additional Divine Services according to the Liturgical Calendar of the Great Church of Christ to accommodate parishioners.

### *Notice of Informed Consent.*

By voluntarily entering this church facility, you affirm that:

- You are not currently ill or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms.
- You agree to abide by the physical distancing and safety guidelines as being practiced in our Parish.
- You acknowledge, that while the recommended CDC, State and Local, County, and Metropolis safety measures are being taken by the Church, the parish cannot guarantee that there is no risk of infection for attendees. If you are not able to agree with the above statements, we ask that you remain at home to participate in the livestreaming of our services at:

<http://www.annunciationsac.org/live-services/>