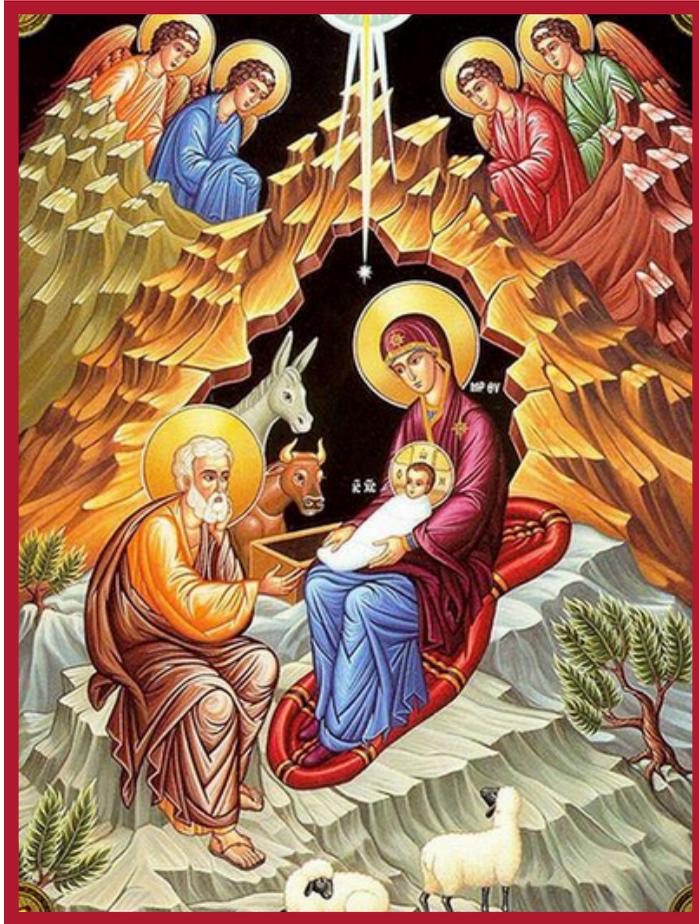




GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ANNUNCIATION
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



Sunday Before the Nativity of Christ

December 22, 2024

Sunday Before the Nativity

December 22, 2024

Advent Fast (oil and wine allowed today) | Mode 1 | 4th 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 Anastasia the Great Martyr with her teacher Chrysogonos, and Theodota, Evodias, Eutychianus, and Zoilas and other Martyrs who suffered with her.

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, Ἀλληλουῖα.

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 1.

Τοῦ λίθου σφραγισθέντος ὑπὸ τῶν Ἰουδαίων, καὶ στρατιωτῶν φυλασσόντων τὸ ἄχραντόν σου Σῶμα, ἀνέστης τριήμερος Σωτήρ, δωρούμενος τῷ κόσμῳ τὴν ζωὴν· διὰ τοῦτο αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν οὐρανῶν ἐβόων σοι ζωοδότα. Δόξα τῇ Ἀναστάσει σου Χριστέ, δόξα τῇ βασιλείᾳ σου, δόξα τῇ οἰκονομίᾳ σου, μόνε φιλόνηρωπε.

The stone had been secured with a seal by the Judeans, * and a guard of soldiers was watching Your immaculate body. * You rose on the third day, O Lord * and Savior, granting life unto the world. * For this reason were the powers of heaven crying out to You, O Life-giver: * Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ; * glory to Your kingdom; * glory to Your dispensation, only One who loves mankind.

...Apolytikion of the Forefeast, Mode 4: Ἐτοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ἠνοικταὶ 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 ᾧ τὸ θεῖον φυτόν, ἐξ οὗ φαγόντες

ζήσομεν, οὐχὶ δὲ ὡς ὁ Ἄδὰμ 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 τῇ πηγῇ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι Τρεῖς Παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ προφήτης Δαυὶδ, λεόντων ποιμὴν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο. Ταῖς αὐτῶν ἰκεσίαις Χριστέ 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 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 4: Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπόρρητως. 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

Chrysa Demos & Sofia Tsakopoulos



Memorials

Vasiliki “Vicki” Diavatis Booros (40 days), Bess Kerhoulas (40 days),
Trisevgeni Koumarelas (40 days)

Coffee Fellowship

Sponsored by the Booros Family



Beginning December 1st
Each evening, read 1 chapter of
The Book of Luke in the Bible.
There are 24 chapters.
On Christmas Eve, you will have
read the whole account of
Jesus's life and wake up on
Christmas Morning knowing
Who and Why we
Celebrate Christmas.



Sunday School Christmas Program

Sunday, December 22

Immediately Following
the Divine Liturgy

Annunciation
Greek Orthodox Church



CHRISTMAS BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2024

Directly after the Divine Liturgy
Annunciation Hellenic Center Foyer



Merry Christmas

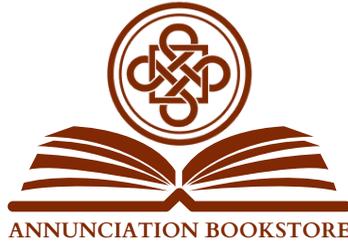
Delicious Greek Pastries from the
Philoptochos Kitchen to your
Christmas Table

To ensure availability please order by December 16. 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 Toula Delis at (916) 745-5022. Orders can also be mailed to: Annunciation Philoptochos Attn: Bake Sale 616 Alhambra Blvd Sacramento, CA 95816.



✂-----
Name _____ Phone _____ Date Ordered _____

		Quantity	Cost
Baklava	\$40 per pan (9¾ x 7 ¾)	_____	_____
Galaktobouriko (available by pre-order)	\$30 per pan (9¾ x 7 ¾)	_____	_____
Koulourakia	\$10 per dozen	_____	_____
Kourabiethes	\$20 per dozen	_____	_____
Kourabiethes with Almonds	\$20 per dozen	_____	_____
Melomakarona	\$20 per dozen	_____	_____
Paximathia	\$10.00 per dozen	_____	_____
Ekmek Kataifi Rolls	\$30 per pan (9¾ x 7 ¾)	_____	_____
Combination (4 Baklava, 4 Kourabiethes, 4 Melomakarona, 4 Koulourakia)	\$25 per box	_____	_____
		Total	_____



ANNUNCIATION BOOKSTORE NEWS

We are stocked and ready to handle all your Christmas shopping needs, from spiritual needs, children's books and gifts, to hostess and girlfriend gifts. Come by after Liturgy to see what's new. Here are a few of our favorites below:



Merry Christmas Confetti Candles



Beautiful Soi Candles



Sweet & Spiritual Musical Hearts



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



SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA
ANNUNCIATION
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



VASILOPITA
2025
BAKE SALE

DSG

\$30

Pre-Order by Dec. 28

Pick up Dec. 31, 10am-12pm

Contact Maria Verrios to order

verrios.demas@gmail.com

916-541-3486





DIVE FOR THE CROSS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2025
2:00PM

AT THE DARIOTIS FAMILY HOME

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

REGISTER BY JANUARY 3 AT
tiny.cc/dive25

CONTACT NICKI HANSEN WITH QUESTIONS
NHANSEN@ANNUNCIATIONSAC.ORG



LIMITED SPACES

\$100.00 BUY IN

\$25.00 SPECTATOR TICKET

MEZEDES & NO HOST BAR

GRAND PRIZE- JONATHON ALDER

TAVLI BOARD



SATURDAY
JANUARY 11TH, 2025

DOORS OPEN AT 1:30PM
GAMES BEGIN AT 2:00PM

The ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
600 ALHAMBRA BOULEVARD, SACRAMENTO, CA

PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT THE DSG

CLICK LINK BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS

FOR QUESTIONS CONTACT VERRIOS.DEMAS@GMAIL.COM OR 916.541.3486





SUNDAY SCHOOL

Building a solid foundation for Christian education and formation

REGISTRATION STILL OPEN FOR THE 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR
REGISTER AT tiny.cc/sunday-school

NURSERY-5TH GRADE

Class begins at 10am.

MIDDLE SCHOOL & HIGH SCHOOL

Students attend the Divine Liturgy or assist our youth in class lessons and activities beginning at 10am. Middle School and High School lessons begin following Holy Communion.

Please contact sundayschool@annunciationsac.org with questions



ALTAR BOY REGISTRATION 2024-2025

2nd Grade and Up

Visit tiny.cc/altar2024

Please contact Gary Leonard with questions
garyleonard@hotmail.com

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.

tiny.cc/epistlereaders



SUMMER 2025 SURVEY

HELP US PLAN OUR SUMMER YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Visit tiny.cc/summer-survey25

2024 PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

On Sunday, December 15, four candidates ran for four open Parish Council positions. We are pleased to announce the following individuals have been elected:

George Chuchas, Mike Dariotis, Takis Fotopoulos, RJ Hansen

Their three-year term begins January 2025. 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.

Publication Submission Deadlines

Sunday Bulletin - Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org
Limited to Annunciation parish and parochial ministry activities and announcements

This Week at Annunciation Email - Wednesdays by 4pm to nhansen@annunciationsac.org

Quarterly Observer - March 10th to observer@annunciationsac.org

STAY UP-TO-DATE ON UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS WITH THE

Annunciation Parish Calendar

tiny.cc/parishcalendar



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. She can be reached in the office at 916-443-2033 ext 222.

STEWARDSHIP 2024

BELIEVE, BELONG, BE LOVED



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





Eleni “Debbie” Evrigenis George was appointed National President of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc. by His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America in October 2024. A third-generation Philoptochos member, Debbie has followed in the footsteps of her grandmother, mother, and sister, dedicating her life to philanthropy and service. In 2020, she was appointed to the National Philoptochos Board by His Eminence, where she has contributed to several committees. Prior to becoming National President, Debbie held leadership roles within Philoptochos, serving as President and Treasurer of the Metropolis of Detroit Philoptochos under His Eminence Metropolitan Nicholas. She also served two terms as President of her chapter at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills, Michigan, working to advance the Society’s mission and many worthy causes.

Debbie’s lifelong commitment to Philoptochos reflects her deep roots in philanthropy, a passion instilled by her family. She was baptized at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Portland, Oregon, and later moved to Sacramento, California, where she became an active Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church member. Along with her husband, John K. George, she raised their two daughters, Dianna and Christina, at Annunciation, with the family actively participating in church life. In 2010, Debbie and John relocated to Michigan, where they currently reside. Debbie holds degrees in Business and Fashion Design. She has had a diverse professional career, including roles at Merrill Lynch Capital Markets, Wells Fargo Bank, and as a substitute elementary school teacher.

Throughout her life, Debbie has generously shared her time, talents, and resources in service to the community. As National Philoptochos President, she aims to honor the organization’s rich legacy while leading it to new heights by embracing love, grace, and truth. With the support of her family and her Philoptochos sisters, she is committed to upholding the values of the Greek Orthodox Church and making a lasting impact on families in need and those less fortunate.



Debbie George

National President of the Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, Inc.



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

METROPOLIS NEWS

Family Winter Camp

St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center

Friday, December 27 – Monday, December 30, 2024

More information at www.gosfyouth.org/family.

Young Adult Winter Retreat

Lake Tahoe

Friday, January 17 – Monday, January 20, 2025

Details and registration at www.gosfyouth.org/youngadults

Greek Village Staff Applications

June 2025

Information and applications online at www.ourgreekvillage.com/careers

Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch

Session 1: July 6 - 12

Session 2: July 13 - 19

Session 3: July 20 - 26

Visit www.gosfyouth.org/summer-camp-2025 for application and details

Summer Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch Staff Applications

Visit www.gosfyouth.org/summer-camp#/staff-applications for application and details

CrossRoad

Session details www.crossroadinstitute.org

December 22-29

Sunday, December 22

Sunday Before the Nativity

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

Sunday School Christmas Program

Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale

Tuesday, December 24

10:00am Great Hours of Christmas

6:00pm Vespers Divine Liturgy of Christmas

Church Office Closes at Noon

Wednesday, December 25

The Nativity of Our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ

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

Church Office Closed

Thursday, December 26

Church Office Closed

Sunday, December 29

Sunday After the Nativity of Christ

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

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 (entrance on Alhambra Blvd). The bookstore is open Sundays after Church or call (916) 231-9949 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