



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ANNUNCIATION
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA



THE SUNDAY OF THE LAST JUDGMENT (MEATFARE SUNDAY)

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

The Sunday of the Last Judgment

February 23, 2025

Mode 2 | No Fasting (Dairy allowed all week) | 2nd Morning Gospel

This Lord's Day, we remember Polycarp the Holy Martyr & Bishop of Smyrna; Proterios, Archbishop of Alexandria; Gorgonia the Righteous, the sister of Gregory the Theologian; Damian the New Martyr of Mount Athos; and Boswell, Abbot of Melrose Abbey.

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 Word of God....

Antiphon III. Resurrection Apolytikion. Mode 2.

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἢ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας, τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεώτας, ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα Χριστέ, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν δόξα σοι.

When you descended unto death, O Lord Who Yourself are immortal Life, then did You Mortify Hades with the lightning flash of Your Divinity. Also when You raised the dead from the nether world, all the Powers of the heavens cried out, "O Giver of life, Christ our God, glory to You!

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.

Kontakion for Judgment Sunday, Mode 1: Ὅταν ἔλθῃς ὁ Θεός, ἐπὶ γῆς μετὰ δόξης, καὶ τρέμωσι τὰ σύμπαντα, ποταμὸς δὲ τοῦ πυρὸς πρὸ τοῦ Βήματος ἔλκη, καὶ βιβλοὶ ἀνοίγωνται, καὶ τὰ κρυπτὰ δημοσιεύονται, τότε ῥῦσαί με, ἐκ τοῦ πυρὸς τοῦ ἀσβέστου, καὶ ἀξίωσον, ἐκ δεξιῶν σου μὲ στήναι, Κριτὰ δικαιοσύνη.

When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge.

After the Trisagion Hymn:

Prokeimenon of the Apostle. Mode 3. Psalm 146 & 134.

Great is our Lord, and great is His strength. Praise the Lord, for the Lord is good.

The Reading is from the Holy Apostle Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians (8:8-13; 9:1-2): Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

Alleluia

The Gospel Reading is from Matthew (25:31-46): The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Parish Council: Team A

Bill Evrigenis – Team Leader, Takis Fotopoulos,
Chris Georgoulas, RJ Hansen, Niko Pikios, Demetri Romas



Altar Guild

Effie Crush & Carol Rotas



Epistle Reader

Jasper Geranios

Memorials

Stan Kalafatis (40 days), Maria Klostrakis (40 days), Mary Lydon (40 days),
John KREATSOULAS (two years), Colleen KREATSOULAS (three years), Despina KREATSOULAS (three years)

Coffee Fellowship

Sponsored by the Lydon & KREATSOULAS Families

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

SATURDAY OF SOULS

On the Saturday of Souls, Orthodox Christians commemorate those who have fallen asleep in the Lord. We will be offering the traditional memorial prayers for the reposed on the following dates:

Saturday, February 22: Saturday of the Souls

Saturday, March 8: Feast of St. Theodore and the Miracle of the Koliva

Please note, services will *not* be held on Saturday, March 1.

If you would like to have the names of your Orthodox loved ones remembered in prayer, please list their first names on the provided card or submit them online by scanning the QR code. The submitted names will be included in the memorial prayers for both services, so there is no need to submit more than one list.





KIDS 'N' CANCER MONTH

Please join Philoptochos in the month of February for our Kids 'n' Cancer fundraiser to support our Kids 'n' Cancer Agape Camp. We support 4 camps in our Metropolis for children with cancer and their families. Each camp will invite about 20 families for 4 days of spiritual, fellowship and fun. There always is a theme and special surprises for the families.

Philoptochos thanks you for your continued support for this worthy cause.

Sunday, February 2nd - Pancake Breakfast

Sunday, February 9th - Super Bowl Nacho Sunday

Sunday, February 16th - Kids 'n' Cancer Coffee Hour

Sunday, February 23rd - Our Fabulous Cake Raffle

Annunciation Philoptochos Society presents

A Scrumptious Cake Raffle



Sunday, February 23

Following the Divine Liturgy
Annunciation Hellenic Center

Raffle tickets for these beautiful cakes on fancy platters will be sold on the Sunday of the raffle, during coffee hour.

Please join us for
tea & treats at a

MYRRHBEARER MEET & GREET



Sunday, March 9

Classroom 2209
Following the Divine Liturgy

Girls 2nd grade and up



RSVP at tiny.cc/teaparty25



2025 ST. JOHN CHRYSOSTOM ORATORICAL FESTIVAL

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

ANNUNCIATION PARISH FESTIVAL

Sunday, March 30, 2025 · Following the Divine Liturgy, 12:30pm

AWARDS

National finalists are eligible to receive the following:

- St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Scholarship: \$500 to \$2000
- FAITH - An Endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism: to be announced

Finalists at any level are eligible to receive the following:

- Chrysostom Scholarship to Hellenic College: \$2,500 up to \$30,000 per year

Find topics, tips, manual & award information at www.goarch.org/oratorical

Questions? Interested in participating?

Contact nhansen@annunciationsac.org



ANNUNCIATION SACRAMENTO

LENTEN
YOUTH
RETREAT

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY OF LAZARUS
APRIL 12, 2025

ADDITIONAL DETAILS TO COME





SAVE THE DATE

JUNE 23 - 27

MORE DETAILS TO COME



Is the Lord Jesus calling you?

Do you want to learn more about Orthodox Christianity
and becoming an Orthodox Christian?

In recent months, our Parish has been blessed with a number of people inquiring about the Faith. **Are you among these inquirers?** We would like to share our Faith with you in an organized and systematic way. Beginning Tuesday, February 18, and continuing through Great and Holy Lent and Pascha, we will be offering an **Introduction to Orthodoxy Class** (for adults). We will meet in the downstairs Conference Room in the Hellenic Center. Class will begin at 6 pm and meet for about an hour and half. If you cannot come in person, but you would like to participate via Zoom, please tell us, and we will endeavor to accommodate you.

Required Texts:

- Dr. Eve Tibbs, *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology: Introducing Beliefs and Practices* (Baker Academic, 2021). This excellent recent book is available in print (our bookstore has some copies), Kindle, and Audio.
- Mark Nauroth, *The Power of the Creed* (Worldview Guys Media, 2019). This privately published text is only available in print, BUT Mark, a Parishioner at St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA, has also done a series of YouTube videos based on the book. Search for Mark Nauroth on YouTube. 13 videos. (Caution! There is a lot of religious "junk" on YouTube. I think you know this!)

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

Fr. Timothy Robinson, Associate Priest



ANNUNCIATION BOOKSTORE NEWS

Καλή Σαρακοστή! We will be presenting recommended reading for Lent which are located on the console just inside the Bookstore on the left. Please consider the following good reads to help you along your Lenten journey:

6 Hours, 7 Lessons: How Christ's Light Transcends Our Darkness

By Rev. Dr. Nicholas G. Louh and Dr. Roxanne K. Louh

During His darkest moments, Jesus uttered seven statements on the Cross that offer us tremendous wisdom in our own dark seasons—when we feel alone, forgotten, and unable to surrender, forgive, or let go of our mistakes. In *6 Hours, 7 Lessons*, Orthodox Christian priest Father Nicholas Louh and licensed clinical psychologist Dr. Roxanne Louh show us that there is no darkness so dark that our Lord hasn't already experienced it. Christ's final words direct us toward the light of His love and protection while giving us the guidance we need to find hope and healing.

Thirty Steps to Heaven: The Ladder of Divine Ascent for All Walks of Life

By Vassilios Papavassiliou

Many laypeople have attempted to read the great spiritual classic, *The Ladder of Divine Ascent*, but have been frustrated in attempting to apply the lessons of this monastic text to their everyday lives in the world. In *Thirty Steps*, Archimandrite Vassilios interprets the Ladder for the ordinary Christian without sacrificing any of its beauty and power. Now you too can accept the challenge offered by St. John Climacus to ascend closer to God with each passing day.

Pilgrimage to Pascha: A Daily Devotional for Great Lent

By Archpriest Steven John Belonick with Michele Constable and Michael Soroka

Second edition edited by Deborah Malacky Belonick

This unpretentious little book of meditations based on Scripture, ancient hymns, and writings from Church Fathers will nourish the souls of reflective seekers during the forty-day period of Great Lent. Authors of each meditation have delved deeply into the sins and shortcomings of their own hearts, enabling readers to share in a collective human experience - from darkness to light, from despair to hope, and from isolation to commonality in the body of Christ - as they move steadily toward our Lord's Resurrection.

Tending the Garden of Our Hearts: Daily Lenten Meditations for Families

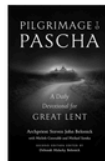
By Elissa Bjeletich and Kristina Wenger

Are you looking for a way to keep your family engaged in the true spiritual nourishment Lent has to offer? *Tending the Garden of Our Hearts* offers family devotions based on the scriptures for each day of Great Lent, including questions to discuss and ponder and an appendix full of hands-on activities to bring the lessons of the season to life. Whether you use it every day or dip into it occasionally as time permits, this book will help the whole family get more out of this crucial season of the Orthodox year.

Consider the Bookstore for all your gifting needs whether they be for the family home, girlfriend, child or a hostess gift. We carry beautiful journals, soy candles, holy oil, a variety of icons, inspirational canvas pouches, beautiful jewelry and more!

Be sure to check out the Father Vinnie Happy Birthday soy candles - "because it's everyone's birthday"! Long burning with a natural wood wick, these colorful confetti candles are a treat for every person in your life. Buy one for the family and light it over and over as a family birthday tradition.

Supporting your Bookstore is supporting your church as we give back to the community. This year icons were purchased for the priests to give out at weddings and baptisms.





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



Annunciation Costume Inventory Project

We are creating a digital inventory of our costume collection and its rich history and would like to include as many photos and examples as possible.

- Did you dance with the Annunciation in the past?
- Do you have photos of yourself, your children, or grandchildren in these costumes?
- Did you sew or help with costumes?
- Do you have any other information about the costumes or do you still have old costumes at home?

In particular, we are looking for group and individual photos from the 1970s to the present day. We have already inventoried many costumes stored at the church, but we know there are more out there!

Please text or email Anastasia if you have questions, information or photos at 530-574-2756 or panagaa@crc.losrios.edu.

If you'd like to see what we've inventoried so far, the digital costume record forms can be accessed by scanning the QR code.



This inventory is a work in progress and some costume forms are still incomplete as we gather more information.



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



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.



METROPOLIS OF
SAN FRANCISCO

METROPOLIS NEWS

Metropolis Disaster Relief Fund

Donations can be made online to provide assistance to those affected by the California fires as they work to rebuild their lives and homes amidst such a terrible tragedy.

Visit www.tiny.cc/california-fire-relief to make a donation

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

DO YOU HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT FALLING?

"A Matter of Balance" is an empowering workshop designed for individuals who wish to overcome their fear of falling and embrace a more active lifestyle. Over the course of eight weeks, participants engage in two-hour classes that focus on building strength, enhancing balance, and boosting confidence.

This transformative program not only addresses physical aspects but also incorporates strategies to help you manage concerns about falls. By the end of the workshop, you'll find yourself more self-assured and ready to enjoy life to the fullest, equipped with the tools and confidence to engage in activities you love without fear!

Eight two-hour sessions in Annunciation Hellenic Center
Wednesdays, 1 - 3 PM
March 5 - April 23, 2025

Join us! It's free! Invite a friend!



A MATTER OF
BALANCE
MANAGING CONCERNS ABOUT FALLS


To sign-up or for more info, call Dennis Ferreira, (916) 747-1442

Sponsored by the Family Wellness Initiative.
Program licensed and overseen by UC Davis.

A Matter of Balance Lay Leader Model

Recognized for Innovation and Quality in Healthcare and Aging, 2006, American Society on Aging.
A Matter of Balance Lay Leader Model was developed by a grant from the Administration on Aging (#90AM2780).





The Family Wellness Initiative Open House

JOIN US: —

THE *Beauty*
OF AGING TOGETHER
** LIKE FINE WINE **
CAND THE *Joy* **OF**
HEALTHY
LIVING



We warmly invite you to join us!



Wednesday, February 26, 2025

11 am - 1 pm

Arrive early as the program starts promptly at 11

Annunciation Hellenic Center Foyer

(616 Alhambra Blvd, Sacramento)

*T*HIS open house showcases the fun, education, and value of the *Family Wellness Initiative* as we make new friends, invest in our health, and care for those who exercise and eat with us.

If you want to age in place within our community, join us to discover ways this program can help you support your future or current caregivers, preserve your family's wealth, and lower your long-term care costs.

Our vision is to help individuals and families navigate the challenges of aging and caregiving with the support of our faith community.

Come and join us for a simple meal and learning opportunity about a program that could make a big difference today and in all the years ahead.



To RSVP and
share a light
Lenten lunch,
please call
Bernadette
Kontos at
916-505-3946

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
annunciationsac.org/stewardship
or return a pledge card to the Church Office



February 23 - March 2

Sunday, February 23	Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday) 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy Philoptochos Kids 'n' Cancer Cake Raffle
Monday, February 24	6:00pm Parish Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 25	6:00pm Introduction to Orthodoxy
Wednesday, February 26	10:30am Annunciation Bridge-Dominos Group Meeting
Thursday, February 27	6:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
Sunday, March 2	Forgiveness Sunday 9:00am Orthros, 10:00am Divine Liturgy Dancer Recognition Sunday 2:00pm Young Professionals Kickoff 6:00pm Vespers of Forgiveness

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

Annunciation Parish Calendar
tiny.cc/parishcalendar

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