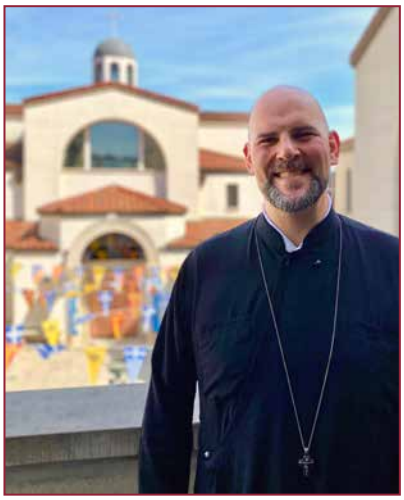
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
HERALD

APRIL 2026 | 245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 • (415) 864-8000 • WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG

Father's Feature

Rev. Fr. Constantinos Economos



Beloved in the Lord,

Everyone of us has experienced a loss in their life, for death is a universal reality of our fallen human condition. No matter the age, the relationship, or the circumstances, the pain is real and often overwhelming. Each loss awakens other hidden wounds within us, and in this way grief becomes a kind of mirror—revealing how precious, fragile, and yet how deeply loved life truly is.

Death brings separation, but Christ brings unity. Death tears apart, but Christ gathers together. In Adam we are scattered by corruption; in Christ we are made whole by resurrection. And it is precisely here that the Orthodox Christian faith speaks with uncompromising clarity and hope: we do not deny death, but neither do we surrender to it. We face it fully, because Christ has entered it and destroyed it from within. For as the Apostle Paul proclaims, "O Death, where is thy sting? O Hades, where is thy victory?" (1 Cor 15:55) In the light of the Resurrection, death is no longer an end, but a passage; no longer a prison, but a doorway. Christ alone in all of history has entered the grave and filled it with His life.

As we approach Holy Week and Holy Pascha, the Church does not ask us to ignore our sorrow, but to bring it into the light of Christ. The tomb becomes the very place where love is revealed as stronger than death. Our grief is not erased, but transfigured.

St. John Chrysostom, in his radiant Paschal homily, calls us into this mystery with boldness and joy: "If any be devout and God-loving, let him enjoy this beautiful and radiant festival." The invitation is universal. No one is excluded by sin, weakness, or even by the weight of death itself. The empty tomb speaks to all.

And again he proclaims with apostolic boldness: "Let all partake of the feast of faith. Let all receive the riches of goodness." This is not a reward for the worthy, but a gift for the hungry. The Resurrection is not earned; it is given. It is not the triumph of human strength, but the victory of divine mercy.

Therefore, beloved, Christ now invites us to transform our losses into offerings of faith. What we cannot heal, He sanctifies. What we cannot restore, He raises. What we cannot carry, He bears upon Himself upon the Cross, and in His Resurrection, He fills even the grave with light.

As we enter the days of Holy Week, let us not come as spectators, but as participants in this saving mystery. I invite you all to live the Passion of our Lord this Holy Week, and join us in the holy services. Let us bring before Him our grief, our memories, our wounds, and even our unanswered questions. And let us stand in the quiet certainty that the final word over every human life is not death, but Christ is Risen.

Indeed, as Chrysostom proclaims to the whole Church in Paschal joy: "Enter all of you into the joy of your Lord." Amen.

Wishing you and yours a blessed Pascha!

Καλή Ανάσταση!

With love in Christ,

REV. FR. CONSTANTINOS ECONOMOS
π. Κωνσταντίνος Οικονόμου

DEAN, ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
Ιερατικώς Προϊστάμενος

All that we have is from God and all that we do is to His glory. As Stewards we pledge our time, talent and treasure to support and grow His church. By offering your talents in ministry and by committing to giving a percent of your income, an intentional step on our journey toward becoming a fully giving parish. Ask yourself; Am I giving my time, talent and treasure in a way that positions our parish for growth? Am I giving my first fruits sacrificially, as a response to God's abundant blessings?

Our Stewardship model is moving towards a 100% model for operating expenses. Join us on this journey and make your commitment today if you have not done so already. Our goal is for each stewardship to increase your stewardship commitment by at least 1% a year until your household reaches a tithing level of at least 10% of your income.

Annunciation Cathedral
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Aris & Kathy Vellis
Gus & Meena Vellis
Adrienne Verreos
Angelo Vorrises
Constantinos Vorrises
Denis & Renee Vorrises
Dionisios Vorrises
George & Loula Vorrises
Jim & Louise Vorrises
Stephanie & Nanette Vorrises
Penny Pappas Walsh & Martin Walsh
Carl A Wiener
Zachary Wooster
Denise Yeilding
Pamfilia & John Zambelis
Eva & Spiro Zografos

Our apologies if we have made an error/omission with listing your name on our stewardship list. Please contact Denise Yeilding, Stewardship Chair, **denise.yeilding@annunciation.org**, so she may correct the error. We thank all of you that support the Church and our ministries.

"What shall I give to the Lord in return for all His goodness towards me?"

Psalm 115:12

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*All Stewards receive a monthly newsletter, If you would like to Go Green and only receive a digital copy please check this box: ☐

Entering the Church During the Divine Liturgy

"Let all things be done decently and in order" (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Please make every effort to arrive early for the Divine Liturgy. If you do arrive late, out of reverence for these sacred moments, please wait quietly in the narthex and avoid entering the nave during the following times:

- During the Small Entrance *(when the Gospel Book is carried into the center of the church)*
- During the Epistle Reading *(when the Apostle is being read)*
- During the Gospel Reading (*when the Gospel of Christ is proclaimed)*
- During the Homily *(when the sermon is being given)*
- When the Priest is censing before the Great Entrance *(when the priest is going around the church with incense)*
- During the Great Entrance *(when the bread and wine are carried in procession to the altar)*
- From the Creed until after the Consecration of the Gifts (*when we confess the faith and the Holy Spirit makes the bread and wine the Body and Blood of Christ)*
- During the Lord's Prayer

These moments are not simply parts of a service, but should be seen as encounters with the living God. As the Scripture says: *"The Lord is in His holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him"* (Habakkuk 2:20).

Waiting briefly before entering helps preserve that stillness, allowing the whole community to remain attentive to what God is doing in our midst. In this way, even our movement—when we enter, where we stand, how we act—becomes part of our prayer.

If the doors are closed during these times, we kindly ask that you do not open them to enter, but wait until an appropriate moment.

If you have any questions, a Parish Council member will be glad to assist you.

Byzantine Music Classes

Alexander Kozak

Orthodox worship is intensely musical, so we depend on having people who can chant at its services. Annunciation Cathedral is making significant progress in providing parishioners with the resources they need to learn the psaltic art, one of the treasures of our faith.

For the past few months, we have been graced by visits from Christopher Hondros, a chanter at the Castro Valley church and coordinator of the metropolis's music ministry, who is teaching members of our community (and anyone else interested) all aspects of Byzantine music. Christopher is actually a teacher by profession (at Berkeley High School), which you can tell from the ease with which he explains sometimes complex musical concepts.

Some highlights of the class so far have been introductions to modes and genres, the basics of reading Byzantine musical notation, lessons in singing the Sunday resurrectional apolytikia, and an overview of the music of the Akathist Hymn's canon. We make use of both Greek and English versions of hymns, and Christopher is good at explaining things in Western musical terms (for those more used to staff notation and the like).

Classes meet two Saturdays a month at 3 p.m. You can join us remotely, but in person at the cathedral is even better, because Christopher joins us in chanting Vespers at 4 p.m., and as a student you are encouraged to learn by helping us. For more information about when the next classes will take place, or to get a link, reach out to **niko.makarios@annunciation.org.**

Keep this in mind when you respond "Lord, have mercy" during the liturgical services.

The meaning of Kyrie Eleison

The word mercy in English is the translation of the Greek word eleos. This word has the same ultimate root as the old Greek word for oil, or more precisely, olive oil; which was poured onto wounds and gently massaged in, thus soothing, comforting, and making the injured part whole again. The Hebrew word which is also translated as eleos and mercy is 'hesed,' which means steadfast love.

The Greek words for 'Lord have mercy' are 'Kyrie, eleison' meaning, ***'Lord soothe me, comfort me, take away my pain, show me your steadfast love.'*** Thus mercy does not refer so much to justice or acquittal but to the infinite loving-kindness of God, and His compassion for His suffering children.

+ Fr Anthony Coniaris

President's Message Tasso Mavroudis – Parish Council President

I am writing this message following our Annunciation Feast Day Vespers, still reflecting on what was truly a wonderful and beautiful Liturgy presided over by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. We are incredibly blessed by his presence, and I would like to sincerely thank His Eminence for the continued love, leadership, and support he so faithfully shows to our Cathedral.

It was also especially meaningful to be joined by so many clergy from across the Bay Area. Their presence made the celebration even more special, and we are grateful for their prayers and fellowship.

Following Vespers, our community once again demonstrated the warmth and hospitality that defines our Cathedral. Thank you to all of the volunteers who prepared and hosted the paniyiri meal. It was a beautiful gathering and a reminder of what makes our community so special.

As we now look ahead, we enter one of the most meaningful times of the year for our faith. I am truly looking forward to Pascha and the journey that brings us there.

April is filled with exciting and meaningful opportunities for our community to come together:

Our Cathedral Family Retreat will take place on Lazarus Saturday. This promises to be a beautiful day where we come together as a family to prepare our Cathedral for Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We will decorate the Cathedral, prepare koulourakia, fold palm crosses, and decorate eggs. It is a meaningful and hands-on way for all ages to participate in the life of the Church.

Our Palm Sunday Luncheon will once again be a highlight, bringing us together in celebration as we begin Holy Week.

As we continue through Holy Week, we look forward with anticipation and joy to the Anastasi, as together we proclaim "Christ is Risen." There is nothing more powerful than standing together as one Cathedral family, sharing in the light of the Resurrection and the hope that it brings to each of us. Following the Resurrection service, we will gather once again for the traditional magheritsa meal, generously prepared by Mr. Angelo Koutoulas. We thank him for his continued love and dedication in making this cherished tradition possible for our community. Everyone is Welcome!

We are also honored to welcome a very special visit from the Evzones, the Greek Presidential Guard, on Wednesday, April 15. I encourage everyone to attend this unique opportunity to meet the Evzones, see them up close, take photos, and learn more about their important role and traditions.

I would also like to thank everyone who attended our recent General Assembly. Your participation, engagement, and commitment to our Cathedral are what allow us to continue moving forward together. I left the Assembly feeling encouraged and excited about what lies ahead for our community.

As always, thank you all for your continued support, your faith, and your dedication to our Cathedral.

Magiritsa after Anastasi Service

The celebration of the Resurrection is one of the most meaningful and joyful moments of the year, and it is beautifully marked by the sacred Anastasi service. As the midnight proclamation of "Christ is Risen" fills the church with light and hope, we transition from a time of reflection and fasting into one of renewal, fellowship, and celebration.

Following the Anastasi service, we warmly invite you to join us for a cherished tradition, the Magiritsa meal. This special gathering marks the end of the strict Lenten fast and brings our community together in the early hours of Pascha to share in both food and fellowship.

At the heart of the meal is the beloved magiritsa soup, a comforting and symbolic dish traditionally enjoyed after the fast. We are especially grateful for the delicious soup prepared and generously donated by Mr. Koutoulas. Alongside it, we will enjoy fresh bread, eggs, olives, feta, and of course, the joy of being together in conversation and celebration.
This is more than a meal, it is a continuation of the Paschal joy, a time to reconnect, reflect, and rejoice as a community.

All are welcome to join us for this beautiful tradition. The meal is complimentary, and we look forward to celebrating with you!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN – the Mission

The luck of the Irish shone brightly on this month's Community Kitchen! Forget the usual March chill, we transformed the space into an emerald-green celebration on a gorgeous, record breaking heat day. Our volunteers, decked out in every shade of green, sprang into action with the spirit of the Irish, while The Cranberries provided the perfect festive soundtrack. It felt like a true stroke of fortune to have our service land on St. Patrick's Day, trading traditional spring showers for sun drenched cheer.

This month's Community Kitchen was hosted in honor of Mirsini "Mina" Veros, by her sister Amalia, nephew Leo and his loving wife Tiffany. Mina was born in Kalloni, Lesvos in 1934 and was an accomplished seamstress and avid gardener who loved to cook. She was most happy spending time with her husband Bobby in their garden. She also loved hosting family gatherings for any and all occasions. She is survived by their son Steve, daughter in law Kristen and grandchildren, Bobby and Eleni. Mina was laid to rest in Kalloni on February 26th of this year at the age of 91.

We thank you to Amalia, Leo and Tiffany for your gift in honor of her memory. As restaurateurs themselves, our sponsors stepped up to the plate and knocked out a St. Patrick's Day home run! Amalia spent the entirety of Monday cooking two hundred pounds of corned beef for our guests from scratch. Of course, you can't have the beef without the green! Thank you to Gus's Market for donating the cabbage for our side, and always stepping in when we are short on produce! Thanks to another donation from Extra Food, we were able to make bread pudding with chopped fruit for dessert, as well as Kara's cupcakes with tiny shamrocks on top!

The kitchen was hot, the Irish rock was loud, and the spirits were even higher. We served over 200 meals and there wasn't a single scrap left! The volunteers of the month were most definitely our sponsors Amalia, Tiffany and Leo! A force to be reckoned with, not only did they cook the corned beef, sides and salad, they served our guests with joy and love the entire evening and stayed late to clean the entire kitchen.

If you'd like to donate but don't want to commit to being a sponsor for an entire service, please consider making Community Kitchen a part of your monthly donation plan. Even skipping Starbucks a few times a month leaves you with an extra $20 that we would love to take off your hands, and it truly adds up! It costs about $1,000 to serve 400 meals. Consider sponsoring a portion of a month, or an entire service, in honor of a loved one or a special celebration. For inquiries, please email community.kitchen@annunciation.org, and visit volunteerck.org to sign up for next month's event.

Lazarus Saturday Family Retreat

Saturday, April 4, 2026

10:00 – 2:00 PM

Join us, beginning with the Divine Liturgy, for a joyful afternoon of faith, fellowship, and preparation for Holy Week as we celebrate Lazarus Saturday together as a Cathedral family.

Guest Speaker via Zoom: Dr. Philip Mamalakis

Associate Professor of Pastoral Care at Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

Parenting and the Journey to Pascha

How do we fully engage our kids in light of the Resurrection and help them connect with their faith?

Activities for the Youth

Palm Folding — Egg Decorating — Koulourakia Baking

Lenten Snacks Provided by GOYA

Free parking on-site

Elpida Spring 2026: Growing in Faith Together

As we journey through Great Lent and prepare our hearts for the joy of Pascha, the Elpida Youth Program at Annunciation Cathedral is looking forward to a beautiful and meaningful spring season. Over the coming months, our families will gather for special moments of prayer, service, fellowship, and celebration that reflect the spirit of our Cathedral community.

Elpida serves children from Kindergarten through High School, bringing them together to grow in faith, build lasting friendships, and experience the traditions of our Church in hands-on and meaningful ways. This spring offers several opportunities for our parish family to come together and participate in these sacred and joyful moments.

Lazarus Saturday Family Celebration – April 4

On Saturday, April 4, following Divine Liturgy, Elpida will join with fellow Annunciation ministries to host a Cathedral-wide afternoon of fellowship in honor of Lazarus Saturday. This special day reminds us of Christ's power over death and prepares us spiritually for the beginning of Holy Week.

Families are warmly invited to stay after Liturgy to participate in a variety of activities including palm cross folding, koulourakia baking, crafts, service projects, and other hands-on experiences for children and adults alike. Our hope is to create a welcoming gathering where parishioners of all ages can come together to prepare for Holy Week as one community.

Holy Friday Luminaries

During the solemn services of Holy Friday, the walkways of our Cathedral will once again be illuminated by luminaries offered in prayerful remembrance and love. Parishioners may dedicate a luminary for $20 in memory of a loved one or for the health and well-being of someone close to their heart.

These lights create a moving and beautiful atmosphere as we gather to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ and participate in one of the most sacred evenings of the Church year. Please refer to the accompanying flyer and QR code for easy ordering, or contact Mia Fanourgiakis at mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org for additional information.

Holy Friday Myrrh Bearers

We also invite our young girls to take part in a cherished Holy Friday tradition. During the evening service, young girls serve as Myrrh Bearers, scattering rose petals around the Kouvouklion during the procession.

If your daughter, age 12 or younger, would like to participate in this beautiful and meaningful role, please reach out to Mia Fanourgiakis at mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org for more information.

Here is a photo of Elpida participating in a procession of Icons on Sunday of Orthodoxy

Elpida's First Graduation Luncheon – May 31

This spring will also mark a historic milestone for our ministry. On Sunday, May 31, Elpida will host its first-ever Graduation Luncheon honoring the students who have grown up within the program and are now moving on to the next chapter of their lives.

We are especially proud to celebrate six graduating high school seniors, along with several middle school graduates, recognizing their years of participation, service, and spiritual growth within our Cathedral community.

The luncheon will take place following Divine Liturgy and will be $25 per person, with advance reservations required. Complete details and registration information can be found on the attached flyer.

As part of this celebration, Elpida hopes to provide scholarships for our graduating seniors as they begin their college journeys. Anyone interested in contributing toward these scholarships is warmly invited to contact Mia Fanourgiakis.

As we approach the final weeks of the school year and the sacred days of Holy Week, we invite our parish family to take part in these special moments with us. Whether gathering on Lazarus Saturday, honoring loved ones with luminaries, participating in Holy Friday traditions, or celebrating our graduates, these experiences help strengthen the faith and fellowship that make our Cathedral community so special.

With gratitude,

The Elpida Ministry

ELPIDA PRESENTS

ILLUMINATE THE PATH TO THE EPITAFIOS

By lighting these luminaries, we honor the memories of those who have left us and offer our prayers for the health and happiness of our loved ones who remain.

$20 PER PERSONALIZED LUMINARY

Your generous donation will not only bring light to our services but will also support the philanthropic efforts of the Elpida program, enabling us to continue serving our community and spreading the message of love, compassion, and faith.

WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG/LUMINARIES

EPITAPHIOS

Please visit our Philoptochos table on Sundays and view our miniature Epitaphios. We thank our youngest Philoptochos member, Panayiota Koutoulas for designing and bringing her vision to life. We are accepting donations toward the Epitaphios flowers. Cash, Credit Card and Checks welcome!

"Every little bit helps"

Ladies Philoptochos

EASTER BAKE SALE

ON

PALM SUNDAY

APRIL 5

KOULOURAKIA

$20/DOZEN

TSOUREKI

$25/EACH

64th Annual
Philoptochos

Mother's Day Evening Celebration

Lei'd Back Luau

Honoring Janis Petrou

For The Whole Ohana

Saturday, May 9th

The Annunciation Cathedral

San Francisco, CA

6:00 - 7:00pm Hosted Cocktail Reception ~ 7:00pm Dinner

Donation: Adults $90 Children (12 & under) $50

Donation Also Includes Valet Parking

Hawaiian attire highly suggested

Part of our proceeds benefits Kids n' Cancer, Stanford Center for Youth Mental Health & Wellbeing & The Michael J. Fox Foundation

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos

Tickets available for purchase online at:
www.annunciation.org/philoptochos-mothers-day

Please communicate all dietary restrictions/allergies ahead of time
Tables of 10 available.

Seat assignments will be available at the door.

For reservations or information, please
contact: lea.papavasiliou@annunciation.org
grace.koutoulas@annunciation.org or
(650) 518-4657

Woman's Fellowship Retreat

New Icons & Books For Sale During Lent

Stop by our Table in the Narthex when attending services at Annunciation. We have some great Lenten books and the Anniversary Edition of Holy Week Easter Services. New Lenten Books include Great Lent by Fr. Alexander Schmemann, Orthodoxy Study guides and more! Great Lent, Fr. Schmemann draws on the Church's sacramental and liturgical tradition to suggest the meaning of Lent in our life. We invite you to browse these and other books in our collection.

NEW Icons have just arrived in time for Lent and Easter. Over 50 NEW ICONS in all sizes! In addition, we have special gifts, prayer ropes, egg wraps and egg dye, and so many other special items to add to Easter Baskets!! Stop by and shop before gone!

Introduction to Orthodoxy Alexander Kozak

It is my honor to teach Annunciation Cathedral's Introduction to Orthodoxy class, which meets Tuesday evenings at 8 p.m. over Zoom. The goal of the class is to acculturate potential converts to the Orthodox faith, to provide a useful educational resource for all people curious about our beliefs, and to help existing members of the church renew their familiarity with the underlying meaning of the feasts, the saints, and the sacraments.

Every year, as Lent winds down, I teach a class on St. Mary of Egypt. Invariably, it is my favorite class of the whole year. St. Mary's story is so strange: having a penchant for behavior that could only be described as addictive or compulsive, she flees human contact for decades by wandering in the desert. Meanwhile, a monk known for perfection in his asceticism begins to wander, looking for someone greater than he who can teach him the way of virtue. No doubt he expects to find a desert monk, but God brings him together with St. Mary, and he quickly realizes that she is his spiritual superior. She seems an unlikely teacher. She is naked, burnt by the sun, emaciated, and her humble account of her life in the world is one of debauchery and dysfunction. But she levitates when she prays and can walk on water; clearly God intends us to view her as being in some way Christ-like, in spite of her many eccentricities and personal struggles.

Like some other Orthodox saints, St. Mary of Egypt is illiterate. In spite of that limitation, she mysteriously cites Scripture that she could never have read. A careful reader will realize that she is able to do so because she is deeply in touch with those same eternal truths that inspire Scripture itself. Her life of prayer ends up being superior to any bookishness.

If you would like to join us as we discuss topics like St. Mary, the lives of the saints, the meaning of the liturgy, and the rest of the sacramental life of the church, please fill out the form at https://www.agkozak.com/intro and you will receive regular updates about the class, including Zoom invitations. And feel free to introduce yourself to me and ask questions: I am standing at the left chanter's stand during most services.

Holy Saturday, April 4th

You are warmly invited to join us on **Holy Saturday, April 4th**, as we celebrate a joyful and sacred milestone in the life of our parish. On this day, **four catechumens** will be received into the Orthodox Church.

Holy Saturday stands at the threshold of Pascha, a time of profound anticipation and renewal. It is especially fitting that these new members will enter into the life of the Church on this day, sharing in the death and resurrection of Christ in a deeply personal way.

Please come and support **Benjamin, Mohammad, Kristian, and Laurent** with your prayers and presence as they take this important step in their spiritual journey.

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

THE EVZONES ARE COMING

Greek Presidential Guard Visit

Wednesday, April 15
Doors open 6:00 pm
Program Begins 6:30 pm

Join us for a special and rare visit from the Evzones, the Greek Presidential Guard

Meet & Greet with the Evzones
Photo Opportunity with the Guard
Learn the History & Tradition of the Evzones
See the Famous Traditional Uniform Up Close

FREE ADMISSION
FREE PARKING AVAILABLE
Annunciation Cathedral
245 Valencia Street, San Francisco

Holy Week Schedule of Services at the Annunciation Cathedral

Join us as we journey through Holy Week and prayerfully enter into the Passion, the Cross, and the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Palm Sunday, April 5th

The Entrance of our Lord into Jerusalem

- 8:45 AM — Orthros
- 10:00 AM — Divine Liturgy
- 12 PM — Palm Sunday Luncheon
- 7 PM — 1st Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Monday

Great and Holy Monday, April 6th

The commemoration of the blessed Joseph the All-Comely (the Patriarch Joseph)

- 8:30 AM — The Hours and Presanctified Divine Liturgy
- 7 PM — 2nd Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Tuesday

Great and Holy Tuesday, April 7th

The Parable of the Ten Virgins

- 8:30 AM — The Hours and Presanctified Divine Liturgy
- 7 PM — 3rd Bridegroom Orthros of Holy Wednesday

Great and Holy Wednesday, April 8th

The sinful woman who anointed the Lord with myrrh

- 8:30 AM — The Hours and Presanctified Divine Liturgy
- 5 PM — Holy Unction
- 7 PM — Orthros of the Mystical Supper (Anointing will continue during this service)

Great and Holy Thursday, April 9th

The Washing of the Feet, the Mystical Supper, the High-Priestly Prayer, the Betrayal, and the Institution of the Holy Eucharist

- 8:30 AM — Vesperal Divine Liturgy
- 7 PM — Service of the Passion - 12 Gospels

Great and Holy Friday, April 10th

The Holy and Dread Passion of the Lord

- 10 AM — Great and Holy Hours
- 3 PM — Descent from the Cross
- 7 PM — Orthros of Holy Saturday

Great and Holy Saturday, April 11th

The Burial of the Lord in the flesh and His descent into Hades

- 8:30 AM — Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection
- 11 PM — Preressurection Service

Holy Pascha, April 12th

The Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ

- 12 - 2 AM — Hierarchical Divine Liturgy (His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco Presiding)
- 2 AM — Traditional Magiritsa Meal

Καλή Ανάσταση!

ELPIDA INVITES YOU TO A

GRADUATION LUNCHEON

Honoring our High School Graduates:

Alexia Thompson, Angela Kavouniaris, Ted Gikas, Stylianos Vafiadis, Spiro Taptelis and Yianni Sarikakis

Our Middle School Graduates:

Bobby Mavroudis, Daphne Kolitsopoulos, Daniella Tostado, Georgia Efstratis, Kosta Vardakastanis, Vasiliki Lampros and Zoe Fanourgiakis

Sunday, May 31st at 12pm

Annunciation Fellowship Hall
245 Valencia Steet
San Francisco

$25 per person.

Advanced Reservations can be made by contacting Mia Fanourgiakis at mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org or using the QR Code Above

GOYA LENTEN RETREAT

Two weeks ago, our Annunciation GOYA high school teens attended the third annual GOYA Lenten Retreat and came home inspired after an unforgettable weekend. Organized by **Father Manoli Aspiotis**, the retreat brought together 84 campers from across the Bay Area at the Marin Headlands Retreat Center. This year's theme, ***"Yet even now, return to Me with all your heart"*** (***Joel 2:12–13)***, guided a meaningful and reflective experience.

As we approach Pascha, our teens had the opportunity to focus on Christ's sacrifice and grow in their faith through conversations with ***Fr. Manoli and Fr. Nick Mueller***, especially around the purpose of Lenten fasting and spiritual growth.

Our GOYA ministry, along with the support of our community, is grateful to help encourage opportunities like this for our youth. We are also especially thankful to **Niko Makarios** for stepping in at the last minute to chaperone and support our kids throughout the weekend.

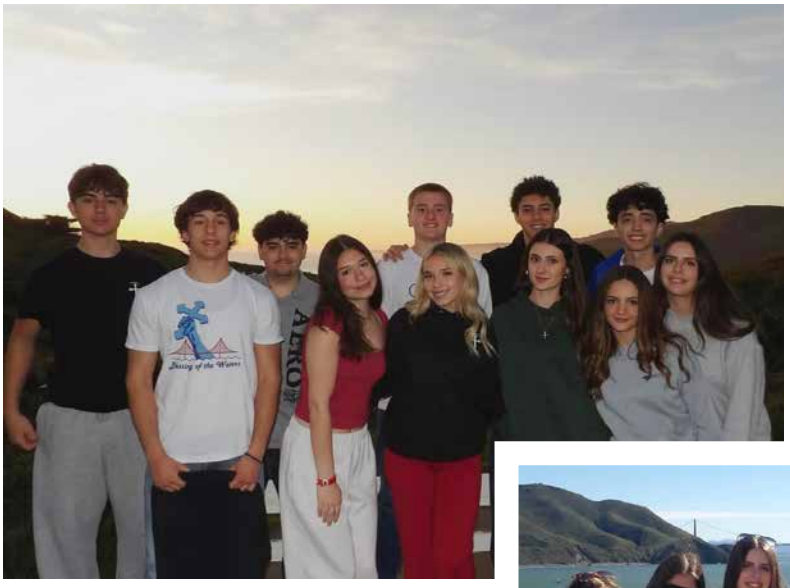
Hearing directly from our teens says it best, their words reflect just how meaningful this experience was and the impact it continues to have on their faith and friendships.

"I had a really great experience and came back feeling happy, knowing these are my forever family and friends." — Ruby Thorne

"The GOYA Lenten Retreat is super fun! Learning more about our faith and trusting God with people we love makes it really special."— Anonymous

"The retreat was a really great experience for me because it helped me meet and grow closer to people from other churches. I also enjoyed it because it gave me a better understanding of prayers, the services, and Lent overall."— Anonymous

"I had such a fun time at the Lentent Retreat getting to learn more about my faith and religion with some of my best friends, and meeting new people was so exciting and refreshing." — Sophia Spachis



Greek School

Greek School students at the Cathedral have had many classroom lessons and activities for the 1821 Greek Independence. They were able to use creativity to design fun projects representing the Greek flag while learning the historical importance of the celebration. Activities are planned for Easter, including decorating lampadas, & egg dying.

Basketball

It's High School Basketball Season! (We also offer Open Gym for Adults !!)

We offer Open gym every Wednesday, 8pm. Come join the fun!!

For more information on our Basketball for youth or Adults, please contact **Deno.Konstantinidis@annunciation.org**

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320

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PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON

April 5, 2026

Following Divine Liturgy

ADULTS - $25
(SALMON ENTRÉE)

CHILDREN 12 AND UNDER - $10
(PASTA ENTRÉE)

PLEASE RSVP BY APRIL 1
SCAN QR CODE BELOW TO RSVP

OR VISIT WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG/PALMSUNDAY

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 8-10 PM Open Gym Basketball	2	3	4 **LAZARUS SATURDAY** 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy 9 AM-1PM Greek School 11-2 PM Family Retreat 3 PM Holy Confession 4 PM Great Vespers
5 PALM SUNDAY ELPIDA SUNDAY 8:30 AM Orthros 9:45 AM Divine Liturgy Palm Sunday Luncheon after Divine Liturgy 7:00PM Orthros of Holy Monday	6 8:30-10:30 AM Hours & Presanctified Divine Liturgy 7:00 PM Orthros of Holy Tuesday	7 8:30-10:30 AM Hours & Presanctified Liturgy 7 PM Orthros of Holy Wednesday	8 8:30-10:30 AM Hours & Presanctified Liturgy 5-7 PM Holy Unction 7PM Orthros of Holy Thursday	9 8:30-10:00 AM Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper 7-9PM Orthros of Holy Friday – 12 Gospels	10 10:00-11:30AM Great and Holy Hours 3-4 PM Descent from the Cross 7PM Orthros of Holy Saturday	11 8:30 AM Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection 11PM-12AM Pre-Resurrectional Canon
12 **GREAT AND HOLY PASCHA** 12-2 AM The Resurrection of Jesus Christ 12-1:15 PM Agape Vespers	13 RENEWAL MONDAY	14 6 PM Sts. Raphael, Nicholas, and Irene Evening Divine Liturgy 8-9 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy (Zoom)	15 **6 – 8:30 PM Evzone Event**	16	17	18 8:45 AM Renewal Saturday Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy 9 AM-1PM Greek School 3 PM Holy Confession 4 PM Great Vespers
19 **THOMAS SUNDAY** 8:45 AM Orthros 10 AM Divine Liturgy	20	21 5:30-8 PM Community Kitchen Service 8-9 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy (Zoom)	22 8-10 PM Open Gym Basketball	23 6 PM St. George Evening Divine Liturgy	24	25 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 Divine Liturgy 9 AM-1PM Greek School 3 PM Holy Confession 4 PM Great Vespers
26 **SUNDAY OF THE MYRRHBEARING WOMEN** 8:45 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Divine Liturgy	27	28 8-9 PM Introduction to Orthodoxy (Zoom)	29 8-10 PM Open Gym Basketball	30		

CHURCH SERVICES — APRIL 2026

Date	Service	Time
Saturday April 4th	**Σάββατο του Λαζάρου -** Saturday of Lazarus Όρθρος - Orthros Θεία Λειτουργία - Divine Liturgy **SATURDAY OF LAZARUS FAMILY RETREAT 9 AM - 4 PM** Εξομολόγηση – Holy Confessions Μέγας Εσπερινός των Βαΐων – Great Vespers of Palm Sunday	 8:45 AM 10 AM 3 PM 4 PM
Sunday April 5th	**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΒΑΙΩΝ - PALM SUNDAY** Όρθρος - Orthros Θεία Λειτουργία - Divine Liturgy **ΕΣΠΕΡΑΣ - EVENING** Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου - Bridegroom - Orthros of Holy Monday	 8:30 AM 9:45 AM 7 PM
Monday April 6th	**Η ΑΓΙΑ & ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΔΕΥΤΕΡΑ - GREAT & HOLY MONDAY** Hours & Presanctified Divine Liturgy Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου - Bridegroom - Orthros of Holy Tuesday	 8:30 AM 7 PM
Tuesday April 7th	**Η ΑΓΙΑ & ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΡΙΤΗ - GREAT & HOLY TUESDAY** Hours & Presanctified Divine Liturgy Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου - Bridegroom - Orthros of Holy Wednesday	 8:30 AM 7 PM
Wednesday April 8th	**Η ΑΓΙΑ & ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΤΕΤΑΡΤΗ - GREAT & HOLY WEDNESDAY** Hours & Presanctified Divine Liturgy Μυστήριο του Ευχελαίου - Sacrament of Holy Unction Α Ακολουθία του Νυμφίου - Bridegroom - Orthros of Holy Thursday	 8:30 AM 5 PM 7 PM
Thursday April 9th	**Η ΑΓΙΑ & ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΕΜΠΤΗ - GREAT & HOLY THURSDAY** Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Mystical Supper Ακολουθία των Παθών - Service of the Passion - Orthros of Holy Friday - 12 Gospels	 8:30 AM 7 PM
Friday April 10th	**Η ΑΓΙΑ & ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΠΑΡΑΣΚΕΥΗ - GREAT & HOLY FRIDAY** Great & Holy Hours Descent from the Cross Ακολουθία του Επιταφίου - Bridegroom - Orthros of Holy Saturday	 10 AM 3 PM 7 PM
Saturday April 11th	**Η ΑΓΙΑ & ΜΕΓΑΛΗ ΣΑΒΒΑΤΟ - GREAT & HOLY SATURDAY** Vesperal Divine Liturgy of the Resurrection Η Πανηχίς πρό της Αναστάσεως - Preresurrection Service	 8:30 AM 11 PM
Sunday April 12 th	**Η ΑΝΑΣΤΑΣΙΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΥΡΙΟΥ, ΘΕΟΥ, & ΣΩΤΗΡΟΣ ΗΜΩΝ ΙΗΣΟΥ ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥ** THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD, GOD & SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST Orthros & Hierarchical Divine Liturgy - **Agape Meal - Serving the Traditional Magirtisa** Great Vespers of Agape at Holy Cross Belmont	 12 PM - 2 AM 11:30 AM
ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ - ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ ! CHRIST IS RISEN - TRULY HE IS RISEN !		
Tuesday April 14th	Sts. Raphael, Nicholas & Irene Evening Liturgy	 **6 PM**
Saturday April 18th	**Renewal Saturday** Όρθρος - Orthros Θεία Λειτουργία - Divine Liturgy Εξομολόγηση – Holy Confessions Μέγας Εσπερινός – Great Vespers	 8:45 AM 10 AM 3 PM 4 PM
Sunday April 19th	**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΟΥ ΘΩΜΑ - SUNDAY OF THOMAS** Όρθρος - Orthros Θεία Λειτουργία - Divine Liturgy	 8:30 AM 9:45 AM
Thursday April 23rd	St. George - Evening Liturgy	6 PM
Saturday April 25th	**Μάρκου Ευαγγελιστου -** St. Mark the Evangelist Όρθρος - Orthros Θεία Λειτουργία - Divine Liturgy Εξομολόγηση - Holy Confessions Μέγας Εσπερινός - Great Vespers	 8:45 AM 10 AM 3 PM 4 PM
Sunday April 26th	**ΚΥΡΙΑΚΗ ΤΩΝ ΜΥΡΟΦΟΡΩΝ- SUNDAY OF MYRRH-BEARING WOMEN** Όρθρος - Orthros Θεία Λειτουργία - Divine Liturgy	 8:30 AM 9:45 AM