



HOLY PENTECOST

The Feast of Holy Pentecost is celebrated each year on the fiftieth day after the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha (Easter) and ten days after the Feast of the Ascension of Christ. The Feast is always celebrated on a Sunday.

The Feast commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles on the day of Pentecost, a feast of the Jewish tradition. It also celebrates the establishment of the Church through the preaching of the Apostles and the baptism of the thousands who on that day believed in the Gospel message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The Feast is also seen as the culmination of the revelation of the Holy Trinity.

The story of Pentecost is found in the book of The Acts of the Apostles. In Chapter two we are told that the Apostles of our Lord were gathered together in one place. Suddenly, a sound came from heaven like a rushing wind, filling the entire house where they were sitting.

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES FOR JUNE & JULY 2024

Sunday, June 2

The Samaritan Woman
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, June 9

Sunday of the Myrhh
Bearing Women
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, June 16

The Fathers of the 1st
Ecumenical Council
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, June 23

Holy Pentecost
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, June 30

All Saints
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, July 7

2nd Sunday of Matthew
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, July 14

The Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical
Council
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, July 21

4th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Sunday, July 28

5th Sunday of Matthew
Orthros 9am, Divine Liturgy 10am

Pledged List of Stewards for 2024 Thus Far

*“As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another,
as good stewards of the manifold grace of God”*

(1 Peter 4:10)

As Orthodox Christians, we are all called upon to be worthy stewards. The very concept of stewardship is based upon our thankfulness toward God. Stewardship asks each of us to commit our time, talent and treasure in fulfilling the mission of Christ and his Church. Now is the time for you to make a commitment. You may pledge and give through our Pledge card below, through our website and pay via paypal, but we prefer you try our New system...Realm. Scan this QR code and pledge today!!!

Sign up for REALM



Set your pledge amount and track your donations throughout the year



Demetria Aleck
Pat Aleck
Maria & Andy Allen
Anthony and Zetta Ambus
Dr. Antonia Ambus
Dr. George and Tessa Ambus
Demetria Apostolopoulos
Mariam Arsinoos
Athena and Nicholas Arvanitidis
Dr. Chrisula Asimos
Philip and Diala Athanasiades
Karen Bagatelos
Michael Bagatelos
Peter Bagatelos
Bradley Banks
John and Kathleen Bardis
Constantine Barlas
George Bazgan
Maria Bissas
Mary Ann and Andrew Boutiette
Jim and Florika Bozionelos
Peter & Maria Cazanis
Bryan Cheong
Mary Chicos
Christopher Contos

Elli Dakis
Kleoiniki & Paul Dakis
Ethel Davies
Christina Decker
Anastasia Dekaristos
Evangelos Dekaristos
Nicholas and Stephanie Delis
Anirudh and Brittany Dhawan
Nicholas and Janine Economides
John Eliopoulos
Louie Eliopoulos
Dr. Tony Elite
Mike and Mia Fanourgiakis
Evgenia Fkiaras
George and Sophia Fonti
James Fotenos
Kalliope and Vlasis Fousekis
Shareen and Spiros Fousekis
Charalambos and Marianthe Fragakis
David and Kathie Garibaldi
Theodore and Christine Gazulis
Alexander C.W. Georges
Sophia and John Georgiadis
Petros and Maria Giannikopoulos
Paul and Meltem Gikas

Con and Joanne Glafkides
Bonnie Grampsas
Costas and Mary Grigoropoulos
Katie and Bob Grohs
Gary Katsanis
Constantine and Eleftheria Haralambopoulos
Leo and Tiffany Haginicols
Jose Hernandez and Sofia Kleftogianne
George & Jaime Haras
Patrick Hillas
Vicki Eleni Holloway
Louise Kallas
Eleni Kalligeros
George Kalligeros
Bill Karas
Chris Karas
Eva Karas
Kathy Karas
Constantine Karsant
Katerina Karsant
Tom & Niki Kastoras
Gari Katsanis
Jim & Joanne Kavalaris
Saki Kavouniaris



PLEASE FILL OUT BOTH SIDES, CUT HERE AND RETURN TO CHURCH.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL 2024 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

Name _____ Preferred Number () _____
Spouse Name _____ Cell Number () _____
Address _____ Email _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Names/ages of dependents _____
I prefer receiving communications via:
 Email Mail Both

COMMITMENT	2024 STEP UP COMMITMENT	2025 STEP UP COMMITMENT
\$ _____ per week, month, year (circle one)	Committing to an annual increase of _____% until such time as you change your designation	Committing to an annual increase of _____% until such time as you change your designation

Please bill my Mastercard Visa Amex (Circle card.) Card # _____ Exp. Date _____
Security Code _____

Name as appears on card _____ Signature _____

Mr. and Mrs. Kleinekorte
 Michael Klobuchar
 Despina Kokalis
 Deno and Bella Konstantinidis
 Nick and Tino Kontonis
 Paul and Irene Kosaris
 Angelos Kottas
 Georgia Kouropoulos
 Grace & Costa Koutoulos
 Angelo and Victoria Koutoulas
 Dina Koutoulas
 Panayiota Koutoulas
 Pete and Voula Koutoulas
 Alexander & Elisavet Kozak
 John and Dwa Kratsas
 Chris and Irene Kyriacou
 Father Stephen and
 Presvytera Aliko Kyriacou
 Stelios Kyriacou
 Aristotelis Lampros
 John and Magda Lampros
 Bob and Lea Lyberopoulos
 Sophie Makras
 Thalia Makras
 Peter and Maria Manetas
 Helen Markanton
 Ana & Nikos Mastokyriakos
 Christos and Melisa Mastrokyriakos
 Mr. and Mrs. George Mattis
 Mary Mavrakakis
 Aglaia Mavroudis
 Basile Mavroudis
 Michael and Gina Mavroudis
 Tasso and Natalia Mavroudis
 Nectarios McKnight
 Irene Melitas
 Faye Mellos and Michael Holland
 Michael and Christina Misthos
 Mr. and Mrs. Monte Montgomery
 Helen Morales
 Vasiliki Moulas
 Vicky A. Moulas
 Tula Mouroufas
 Perri Nager
 Bashar and Roud Nashawati
 Dean and Maria Nicolacakis
 Victor Nicolacakis

Dustin and Chrisoula Novo
 Andrew Nuris
 Manoli Nuris
 Matthew Nuris
 Thomas and Liberty Nuris
 Alexander and Lula Ossipoff
 Anton and Sotiria Panagiotopoulos
 Magdalini Panagiotopoulos
 John & Helen Panomitros
 Voula Pappas
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Pantages
 Dr. Sophia Papageorgiou
 Robert and Alma Papingu
 Penny Pappas-Walsh
 Marion Parashis
 Father Angelo and Presvytera
 Mary Pappas
 Jonathan Pappas
 Marion Parashis
 Joan Patropoulos
 Janis G. Petrou
 Lester and Chrisoula Pezo
 Pamela Piccinini
 Dean Poulakidas
 Sakee and Irene Poulakidas
 Despina Poulos
 Dimitri Prokopos
 Stavroula Prokopos
 Alexis Rakos
 Anastasia Rakos
 Jim and Kelly Rakos
 Nicolas Rakos
 Nick and Patty Rally
 Hariklia Razis
 Matthew Razis
 Erica Roberts
 Alexis Sarantinos
 Emilia Sarikakis
 Mike and Katerina Sarikakis
 Nader and Sawsan Shatara
 Michele Y. Siouris
 Rose Sogotis
 Paul and Evangelia Sogotis
 Mike and Vicky Spachis
 Marios and Anastasia Stathopoulos
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stephens
 George and Georgia Stratoudakis

Nicholas Svetcoff
 Joy Tamaras
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 Eleni Tsagaris
 Aphrodite Tsagaris
 Athanasios and Christina Tsiatis
 Helen Tsifoudaris
 Mr. and Mrs. Konstantinos Vafiadis
 Irene Vafiades
 Steve Vafiadis
 Nicholas and Lourdes Varanis
 Foula Vasilogiorgis
 James and Maria Vavuris
 Sally Vedros
 Aris and Kathy Vellis
 Costas and Meena Vellis
 Adrienne Verreos
 George Vlahos
 Argyrios Vlasakakis
 Angelo J. Vorrises
 Denis J. and Renee Vorrises
 Louise and James Vorrises
 Marie Vorrises and Ryan Lukehart
 Mr. and Mrs. George Vorrises
 Stephanie and Nanette Vorrises
 Loula Vriheas
 Denise Yeilding
 Bessie York
 Andrew and Evangelia Zarou
 Mrs. Evanthia Zografos

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

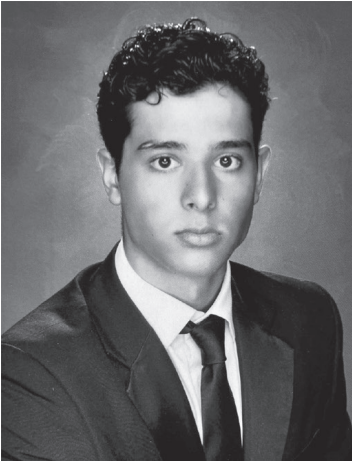
Epitaphios thank you

The Annunciation Cathedral extends a sincere and heartfelt thank you to George and Sophia Fonti for their generous donation of our new Epitaphios. The Epitaphios itself depicts Christ laid for burial, surrounded by many loving figures from His life as well as angels from Heaven. All of these figures were present for Christ in His time of need and similarly, George and Sophia have chosen to be present for the Annunciation Cathedral and have responded to one of its needs by offering to sponsor this most important item for us.

This is the loving, giving, spirit that allows Christ's Church to continue and grow. We thank George and Sophia for supporting our Cathedral and pray that the love of our Risen Lord always guides, guards, and protects them both!



Graduates



Alex Novo

Graduating: from Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco.

Attending in the fall: California State University, Fullerton.



Alexandra Athanasiades

Graduating: from Mercy High School.

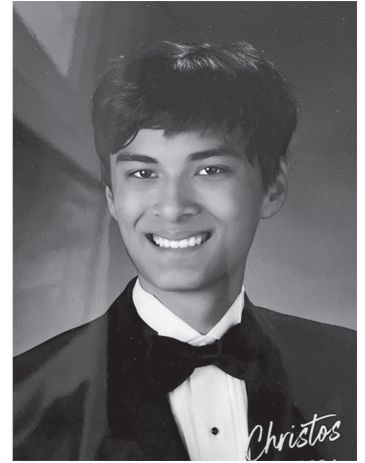
Attending in the fall: California State University, Fullerton



Paul Papavasiliou

Graduating: from Hillsdale High School in San Mateo

Attending in the fall: College of San Mateo



Christos Konsantinidis

Graduating: from Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland

Attending in the fall: Diablo Valley College

MORE GRADUATES

While we do not have photos, we also acknowledge and extend our sincerest congratulations to the following high school graduates as well: **Vasia Kotseroglou, Jacob Reidel, Zoe Selianitis**

(We would love to include your graduate in the next herald, please let us know.)

HOLY PENTECOST *from front page*

Then, tongues of fire appeared, and one sat upon each one of Apostles. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as directed by the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4).

This miraculous event occurred on the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, celebrated by the Jews on the fiftieth day after the Passover as the culmination of the Feast of Weeks (Exodus 34:22; Deuteronomy 16:10). The Feast of Weeks began on the third day after the Passover with the presentation of the first harvest sheaves to God, and it concluded on Pentecost with the offering of two loaves of unleavened bread, representing the first products of the harvest (Leviticus 23:17-20; Deuteronomy 16:9-10).

Since the Jewish Feast of Pentecost was a great pilgrimage feast, many people from throughout the Roman Empire were gathered in Jerusalem on this day. When the people in Jerusalem heard the sound, they came together and heard their own languages being spoken by the Apostles (Acts 2:5-6). The people were amazed, knowing that some of those speaking were Galileans, and not men who would normally speak many different languages. They wondered what this meant, and some even thought the Apostles were drunk (Acts 2:7-13).

Peter, hearing these remarks, stood up and addressed the crowd. He preached to the people regarding the Old Testament prophecies about the coming of the Holy Spirit. He spoke about Jesus Christ and His death and glorious Resurrection. Great conviction fell upon the people, and they asked the Apostles, "What shall we do?" Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38-39).

The Bible records that on that day about three thousand were baptized. Following, the book of Acts states that the newly baptized continued daily to hear the teaching of the Apostles, as the early Christians met together for fellowship, the breaking of bread, and for prayer. Many wonderful signs and miracles were done through the Apostles, and the Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved (Acts 2:42-47).

Prayer of the Holy Spirit
Heavenly King, Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, everywhere present and filling all things, Treasury of blessings and Giver of life: come and abide in us, cleanse us from every impurity and save our souls, O Good One.



Irene Kyriacou Honored Mother of the Year 2024

Our annual Mother's Day Luncheon was held at the Crystal Springs Golf Course, Banquet Room in Burlingame on Saturday, May 11, 2024. With stunning views of the mountains and the vast green fairways, we celebrated the mothers and women in our lives, as well as honoring our Mother of the Year, Irene Kyriacou.

This gathering brought generations of families together and acknowledged the wisdom, beauty, creativity and devotion of faith that these women exemplify. Hope Briggs, critically acclaimed soprano, delighted us with moving renditions of classic songs. The program also included a drawing with a chance to win many wonderful prizes.

The highlight of the event was the honoring and recognition of Irene Kyriacou for her dedication, leadership and love of our Church and Community. Below you will find a biography of our 2024 Mother of the Year detailing her many achievements.

Thank you to all who attended this beautiful luncheon and to all our sponsors and donors whose contributions helped make this event a success. A special thank you to the dedicated committee who worked hard to make this event possible.

Luncheon Committee:

Liberty Nuris – Event Chair
Janis Petrou – Advisor
Mariam Arsinoos
Vivian Curd
Grace Koutoulas
Maria Manetas

Christina Mithos
Patty Rally
Maria Ramos
Foula Vasilogiorgis
Meena Vellis



Philoptochos News

Calendar 2024

The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos invites you to note these activities over the next few months.

June	16th	Father's Day Coffee Hour
June	30th	Biennial Philoptochos Convention
June	TBD	Pastry Preparation and Baking for Food Festival
Aug	TBD	Pastry Preparation and Baking for Food Festival

More about Irene Kyriacou

Irene was born on November 13th, 1974, in Redwood City, California, the older of twin daughters, to Vlasis and Kalliope Fousekis. Six years later, Irene and her twin sister Lea welcomed their brother Spiros. Irene graduated from San Francisco State University, with double majors in Finance and Accounting. She then obtained her CPA license, and worked as a Manager in a local Public Accounting Firm for 13 years. On December 29, 2001, she married the love of her life, Chris, and they have three handsome sons, Stelios, Vlasis and Thanos. The Annunciation Cathedral and their Greek Orthodox faith has always been very important to Irene and Chris. It is where they met, where they were married and where they baptized their children. They have raised their family in the church, involving them in every aspect of church life.

Growing up, Irene watched her grandparents, Ilias and Hariklia Frangos, and her parents, always giving back to the Greek community. Irene and her siblings were raised at Holy Cross Church in Belmont participating in Sunday school, JOY, GOYA, church basketball and volleyball, and most importantly Greek folk dancing. If there was something happening at church, they were involved. From a young age, Irene was taught to volunteer and give back to her community. She became a Greek dance instructor with her sister Lea at the age of 14 for her brother's dance group when their directors went to Greece for the summer and didn't return because they found love. She took on leadership roles in the church youth groups, and always helped where she could.

Irene and her family have long been involved in the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope organizations. In the mid-1990's, Irene and her friends helped reinstate their Maids of Athena chap-

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ter, and then gathered friends from San Jose and Oakland to restart theirs. Within a year, they created a District and Irene became the District Governor. She went on to represent her District at regional and national conventions for three years, during which her parents held the roles of District Governor for the AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope. Her sister Lea also served as Lieutenant Governor for the Maids. It has undoubtedly been a family affair.

Irene has always been active in her sons' elementary school, volunteering for many years on the PTA as the chairperson of the teacher appreciation as well as being the room parent coordinator for the school. She was awarded a Continuing Service award and the Golden Oak award for her years of volunteering and service. Ironically, during Thanos' last year at that school, Irene's volunteering turned into a job, and she joined the staff, obtaining a National Food Manager certification, to run the school's hot lunch program for their 450 students. She also obtained her substitute teaching certification and regularly substitutes for the teachers and staff.

When she's not working on things for the Cathedral or school, Irene is also the Treasurer for the Society of Navarino Messinians, another organization to which her family has strong ties. Her mother, Kalliope, is the President and Irene has helped her co-chair the annual dinner dances.

As many of you know, Irene has always had a passion for Greek folk dance. Having taught for 35 years and counting, she has directed six dance groups, five of them at the Cathedral, and has taught all three of her sons. She co-directs with her sister Lea, her friend Lea Papavasiliou, and her friend Katerina Sarikakis. Irene and her sister Lea were recognized in 2000 as the

co-recipients of the directors award by the FDF judges. After earning countless awards and medals, in February 2023 at the FDF in Phoenix, years of teaching culminated in Spithes winning the elusive Sweepstakes award. In addition to teaching dance, Irene has also served as the Dance Board Treasurer for the Cathedral's dance program for nearly 20 years.

Irene is also active in other areas of church life. She co-chaired the Cathedral's 95th Anniversary Gala, the Adbook and Commemorative Album, as well as the annual Christmas Card numerous times. She has also chaired and co-chaired different areas of the festival throughout the years.

The Philoptochos and Mother's Day at the Cathedral hold a special place in her heart. Not only does she serve as a board member, Irene has chaired and co-chaired 11 Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Shows since 2008, working alongside Presidents Pat Aleck, Angie Leventis, and Janis Petrou. The events have had various themes based on timeless movies like Breakfast at Tiffany's, musicals such as Hello Dolly, and world-class cities including Paris and New York. While each has had its own unique theme, the one constant is high-fashion, with our Annunciation ladies and children modeling beautiful clothes from local boutiques. Irene has a passion for fashion, as she modeled as a young woman, and that's how she first became involved with the Cathedral's Mother's Day Fashion Shows at age 18.

Irene is truly humbled and honored to be selected as this year's Mother of the Year and will continue to give back to the Ladies Philoptochos, the Annunciation Cathedral, and Greek community at large.



2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

For 2024 the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation and the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos together will provide the following scholarships:

1. The John N. Pappas Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
2. The Christos Tsikitas Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
3. Andreas and Nikki Coundouris Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
4. The S. Lee Vavuris Legal Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
5. The Dr. Anthony P. Bagatelos Scholarship, in the amount of 75% of interest earned.
6. The Andrew and Efrosine Vellis Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,500.00
7. Philoptochos Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,500.00

The application must be accompanied by the following:

* **An Official Transcript** from the Office of the Registrar at your High School or College (University/ Vocational School) AND Recent SAT or ACT Scores.

* **Two Letters of Recommendation** from (1): A Parish member (not related to the applicant) in good standing with the Cathedral of the Annunciation; and (2) The Parish Priest

* **A brief resume** (2 page maximum) about yourself including: honors/awards, special skills, extracurricular information, education, and life goals.

* **Additionally**, the applicant (or, if the applicant is under 18 years of age, the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be a member of the Annunciation Cathedral. A member of the Cathedral includes support of the Cathedral through Stewardship. A 2023-2024 Stewardship Pledge Card must have been filed with the Cathedral in order for the scholarship application to be considered.

Supplementary Information

Relative to the Bagatelos/Vavuris Scholarships: Applicants for the Dr. Anthony P. Bagatelos and the Judge S. Lee Vavuris Legal Scholarships must be of Greek descent or of the Greek Orthodox faith. These scholarships are awarded to students who matriculate at and attend medical/law school, preferably at Stanford University/University of San Francisco and intend to practice medicine/law within the nine county area, surrounding San Francisco Bay, preferably San Francisco.

Up to 75% of the income earned by the Bagatelos Scholarship Fund is awarded in the form of a scholarship for tuition or other school-related expenses. Typically, the scholarship is awarded to the same student until that student graduates from medical school, provided that, after submitting the initial application, the student requests the medical school to verify to the Annunciation Cathedral, in writing, by June 1, that the student has satisfactorily completed course work for the year. As for the Vavuris Scholarship, the scholarship is awarded by the Annunciation Cathedral, in concert with the Hellenic Law Society. The restrictions which govern the Bagatelos Scholarship do not apply to the Vavuris Scholarship.

Relative to the Philoptochos Scholarship: Applicant must show commitment to public service through participation in a community, person or cause.

Relative to the Andrew and Efrosine Vellis Memorial Scholarship: Applicant must have participated in a youth activity such as Sunday school, altar, Greek School, dance group, and/or as a volunteer in a Cathedral-sponsored event. The Scholarship Committee and a member of the Vellis Family will review the application.

* **All Applicants:** Applicants will be notified by email as soon as possible following the September 1, 2024 deadline. Certificates of scholarship and acceptance letters will be mailed to the recipients.

Please complete the application and forward to the attention of:

The Scholarship Committee
c/o Annunciation Cathedral of San Francisco
245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, California 94103

Please note that the application and supporting documents must be submitted by September 1, 2024

Should you have any questions, contact christo.pappademos@annunciation.org

2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1. NAME _____

2. ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZIP _____

3. AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____

4. E-MAIL _____ TELEPHONE _____

5. HIGH SCHOOL / COLLEGE you are currently attending _____

6. COLLEGE you will be attending in the spring _____

7. Field of Study:
Major _____ Minor _____

8. Actual Grade Point Average _____ Weighted GPA _____

9. Date of High School Graduation _____ Career Objectives _____

10. Name of Parent(s) or Guardian

11. Address (if different from
above) _____

12. Involvement of Applicant with the Cathedral: Member, Youth / Young Adult Group, Choir,
 Sunday School, Greek School, Altar, Dance Group, Athletics

Other _____

13. School Honors & Awards _____

14. Offices held in Class, School, or Church Organizations _____

15. Out-of-School Activities _____

16. Have you received a Cathedral, Philoptochos or Vellis Scholarship in previous years?

Yes No If yes, year(s) _____

(Priority will be given to those who have not previously received a Scholarship.)

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT: I hereby certify that I am a Greek Orthodox Christian (or, of Greek descent, if applicable), spiritually in good standing and a member of the Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, California (or otherwise qualify as noted in the instructions). I have answered the above questions correctly and to the best of my knowledge. I will use any funds awarded to me (to be credited to my school account, or to me, if crediting my account will reduce other scholarship awards) as a result of this application for the sole purpose of assisting me in my higher education.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____



JR GOYA's Koulourakia & Karaoke and Tiropitas & Trivia: So Much Fun!

This spring, the JR GOYA community had two amazing events that were full of fun and laughter! We had "Koulourakia & Karaoke" in April and "Tiropitas & Trivia" in May. These events were not only super fun but also brought us all closer together.

Koulourakia & Karaoke: April Fun

In April, we had our first event called "Koulourakia & Karaoke." It was awesome! First, all the kids got to decorate their own aprons. Everyone made their aprons look super cool and unique. Then, we started making koulourakia, which are yummy Greek butter cookies.

The kids rolled and twisted the dough to make the cookies. The whole room smelled amazing as the koulourakia baked. While the cookies were in the oven, it was time for karaoke! The kids sang their favorite songs in the living room, and it was so adorable. Everyone sang with lots of energy and had a blast.

Tiropitas & Trivia: May Fun

In May, we had our "Tiropitas & Trivia" night, which was just as much fun. Nicki Dakis, also known as "Kyria Tiropita," taught the kids her secret recipe for tiropitas, which are delicious cheese pastries.

The kids gathered around the kitchen island at the Fanourgiakis house and listened carefully to Nicki. They had so much fun spreading butter and making the tiropitas. After the tiropitas were in the oven, we played a Family Feud-style trivia game organized by Mia Fanourgiakis. The trivia game made everyone laugh so hard, and the kids had the best time.

Taking a Summer Break

Now, JR GOYA events will take a break for the summer. But don't worry, we'll be back in August with even more fun activities! These events have been so special because they bring us all together to have fun and make great memories. We can't wait to see everyone again in August for more JR GOYA fun! Have a great summer, everyone!

Announcing the First Elpida Summer Retreat: August 24th

We are thrilled to announce the very first Elpida Summer Retreat, scheduled for August 24th! This retreat is a response to the overwhelming enthusiasm from our community following our successful Lenten retreats. Families have requested more opportunities to come together, learn, and serve, and we are excited to deliver with this special summer event.

A Day of Service and Learning

The retreat will feature a meaningful service project where children and families will assemble backpacks full of school supplies for children in need. This project is a wonderful way to teach our kids about the importance of helping others and giving back to the community.

Interactive Learning Rotations

Throughout the day, children will move through several engaging rotations that will help them deepen their understanding of our faith. These rotations include:

- Learning about the Panagia: Discovering the life and significance of the Virgin Mary.
- Exploring the Story of St. Fanourios: Understanding the life and miracles of this beloved saint.
- Understanding the Divine Liturgy: Breaking down the components of our sacred service.
- Priest Vestments: Learning about the different vestments worn by priests and their meanings.

These activities are designed to be both educational and fun, helping our children connect with their faith in a hands-on and memorable way.

Epic After Party

After a day of learning and service, the retreat will conclude with an epic after party in the gym. We have planned to rent several inflatable activities that promise to bring lots of joy and excitement. It's a perfect way to celebrate a day well spent!

Join Us!

We warmly invite all families to join us for this wonderful retreat. To register, simply scan the QR code on the flyer below. We hope to see you there and encourage you to spread the word to your friends and family. Let's come together to make this first Elpida Summer Retreat a truly special and memorable event.

Thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing you on August 24th!

ELPIDA'S PARABLES AND PANAGIA YOUTH RETREAT



**Grades
TK-8th**

Building Community Through Faith

Bringing families together, strengthening community bonds through fun faith-based activities and hands-on learning experiences

FUN AND ENGAGING LESSONS

Theotokos Garden

Learn and plant all of the flowers that honor our blessed Theotokos

Divine Liturgy Break Down

Learn about what is happening during Divine Liturgy, and make a censor

Priest Vestments

Learn the colors of the liturgical gear and create beautiful priest vestments in small groups

Fanouropita Baking

Learn about St. Fanourios, Bake Fanouropita, and complete a scavenger hunt as you look for lost things

Service Project

Create blessing bags for our local heroes

**Parent Workshops,
Play Centers, Motor
Movement, Greek Dance
Church Hymns
and More**

Event Details



**Saturday August 24th
1pm-5pm
After party 5pm-7pm**

**Annunciation Cathedral
245 Valencia Street
San Francisco**

Admission \$50

Limited seats

150

**Participants
Only**

includes curriculum supplies, service project donation,
snacks, dinner and after party

Register Here!



415 864-8000



mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org



annunciation.org/elpida

Greek Dance

Our Dance Program participated in Ministry Sunday, which was held on Sunday, April 28th (Palm Sunday). Costumes, awards, dance information, group photos, and more were on display for our parishioners to learn more about our wonderful program.

Our Dance Directors have been hard at work planning for the upcoming 2024-25 dance year, researching different regions of Greece. Our groups are taking a summer break and resuming Sunday, August 18th following the feast day

of Tis Panagias. You can see our groups perform at our Cathedral's annual food festival in September.

If you or anyone you know is interested in joining our groups, please contact sfgreekdance@annunciation.org

Our dance groups are as follows:

Orama - Ages 5-9 years old

To Mellon - Ages 10-14 years old

Revmata - Ages 14-17 years old (High school)

Spithes - Adult group



BBQ Picnic Pool Party



Over Memorial Day weekend, GOYA and Jr. GOYA teamed up for a fantastic Summer BBQ Picnic Pool Party at Blackberry Farm! We hosted several Bay Area churches and enjoyed a wonderful turnout. Our activities included swimming, kickball, BBQing hamburgers and hot dogs, playing cards, tree climbing, and a short hike. Best of all, we formed some great new friendships.

By inviting other parishes to Annunciation's GOYA event, we showcased our commitment to being one church and one

community. This event marks the beginning of even bigger and better social and faith activities for this generation of kids.

We wish everyone a wonderful summer ahead and look forward to resuming our activities in September. A huge thank you to all the wonderful parents who volunteered to help out at the event. It truly takes a village!

Kalo Kalokairi,
Vicky Spachis



Hope Movie Night!

COMMUNITY KITCHEN

the MISSION



Another month and another successful Community Kitchen! Our numbers are starting to stay solid at around 65 meals served which I don't think anyone anticipated this early on in re-opening! Extra Food came through this month with a massive delivery of delicious Mediterranean food and no one was left hungry! Pomegranate chicken, saffron rice, hummus, and so much more, we are grateful to our lovely partners at Extra Food and their dedicated volunteers that hustle the food over to us! The SF-Marin Food bank also was a success this month, and we were able to stock up on some dry goods that will help us when deliveries are light in the future. Thank you again to all our wonderful volunteers and please remember to use the signup so we can get a headcount for the evening. We look forward to serving again next month!

Community Kitchen is held every 3rd Tuesday of the month rain or shine!

We are a ministry organized by the Parish's young adults that addresses a critical demand seen throughout our Mission neighborhood- hunger. We serve quality meals to our brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need of a helping hand.

If you are interested in getting involved and volunteering, please email community.kitchen@annunciation.org

An invitation to host Coffee Hour!

You know you'll agree that coffee hour represents a wonderful avenue for drawing our parishioners together and promoting fellowship each Sunday. Earlier in the year we launched our new invitational coffee hour program that provides a more complete offering for our parishioners to enjoy. And our program has been gaining momentum!!!



Here's where you come in... We're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours over the course of the year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items).

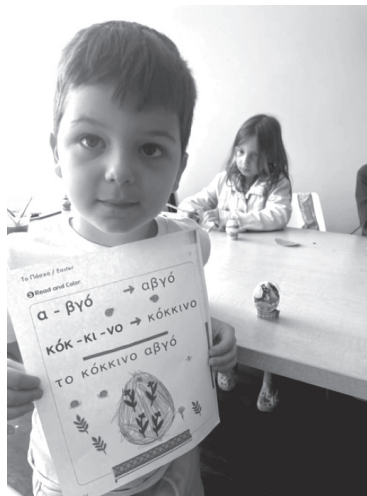
Looking ahead, we're seeking hosts for the following Sundays in June: the 23rd and the 30th, and all of July: the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th. Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

Greek School

On April 27, 2024 Greek school students decorated eggs for Easter. Here are some photos of our proud students.

The 2023-2024 year came to an end on June 1, where we gathered all of the families together for a get together on the church's premises. It was again another successful school year – our students love coming to Greek school every Saturday and learning how to read and write Greek, and of course, the parents are happy as well!

If you are interested in sending your child to Greek school for the 2024-2025 school year, please reach out to Shu at 415-518-8750. Classes start on September 7, 2024.



UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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Save the Date



**September
20 - 22, 2024**

Questions? Contact Co-Chairs

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