



APRIL 2025

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



PASCHA

On the Great and Holy Feast of Pascha, Orthodox Christians celebrate the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This feast of feasts is the most significant day in the life of the Church. It is a celebration of the defeat of death, as neither death itself nor the power of the grave could hold our Savior captive. In this victory that came through the Cross, Christ broke the bondage of sin, and through faith offers us restoration, transformation, and eternal life.

Holy Week comes to an end at sunset of Great and Holy Saturday, as the Church prepares to celebrate her most ancient and preeminent festival, Pascha, the feast of feasts. The time

see page 2



Holy Week & Pascha 2025 Schedule of Services

APRIL 12: LAZARUS SATURDAY

10:00AM Divine Liturgy
Palm Cross Tying to follow

APRIL 13: PALM SUNDAY

9:00AM Orthros
10:00AM - Hierarchical Divine Liturgy
Agiasmos in Courtyard for Commemoration
Palm Sunday Luncheon honoring Father Stephen
6:00PM - Nymphios (Bridegroom)
Procession of Nymphios Icon

APRIL 14: HOLY MONDAY

6:00PM - Nymphios (Bridegroom)

APRIL 15: HOLY TUESDAY

6:00PM - Nymphios (Bridegroom)

APRIL 16: HOLY WEDNESDAY

6:00PM - Holy Unction

APRIL 17: HOLY THURSDAY

10:00AM - Vespers Liturgy of Saint Basil
6:00PM - 12 Gospels

APRIL 18: HOLY FRIDAY

Morning: Epitaphio Decorating 9am
1:00PM - Descent From The Cross
7:00PM - Lamentations

APRIL 19: HOLY SATURDAY

10:00AM - Proti Anastasi, Vespers Liturgy of Saint Basil

PASCHAL SERVICES

(Saturday Night) 11:00PM Canon of the Resurrection
11:45 PM Service of the Resurrection, followed by
Divine Liturgy; Mageritsa Meal to follow

APRIL 20: PASCHA SUNDAY

12 o'clock noon - Agape Vespers

from front page

of preparation will give way to a time of fulfillment. The glorious and resplendent light emanating from the empty Tomb will dispel the darkness. Christ, risen from the dead, cracks the fortress of death and takes "captivity captive" (Psalm 67:19). All the limitations of our createdness are torn asunder. Death is swallowed up in victory and life is liberated. "For as by a man came death, by a man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (I Corinthians 15:21-22). Pascha is the dawn of the new and unending day. The Resurrection constitutes the most radical and decisive deliverance of humankind.

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the fundamental truth and absolute fact of the Christian faith. It is the central experience and essential kerygma of the Church. It confirms the authenticity of Christ's remarkable earthly life and vindicates the truth of His teaching. It seals all His redemptive work: His life, the model of a holy life; His compelling and unique teaching; His extraordinary works; and His awesome, life-creating death. Christ's Resurrection is the guarantee of our salvation. Together with His Ascension it brings to perfection God's union with us for all eternity.

The Resurrection made possible the miracle of the Church, which in every age and generation proclaims and affirms "God's plan for the universe, the ultimate divinization of man and the created order." The profound experience of and the unshakable belief in the risen Lord enabled the Apostles to evangelize the world and empowered the Church to overcome paganism. The Resurrection discloses the indestructible power and inscrutable wisdom of God. It disposes of the illusory myths and belief systems by which people, bereft of divine knowledge, strain to affirm the meaning and purpose of their existence. Christ, risen and glorified, releases humanity from the delusions of idolatry. In Him grave-bound humanity discovers and is filled with incomparable hope. The Resurrection bestows illumination, energizes souls, brings forgiveness, transfigures lives, creates saints, and gives joy.

The Resurrection has not yet abolished the reality of death. But it has revealed its powerlessness (Hebrews 2:14-15). We continue to die as a result of the Fall. Our bodies decay and fall away. "God allows death to exist but turns it against corruption and its cause, sin, and sets

Helpful Information

SUNDAY SERVICES

MATINS: 9:00AM
DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00AM

REV. FATHER ANGELO PAPPAS
415-864-8000

LEAVE MESSAGE FOR RETURN CALL

CHRISTO PAPPADAMOS

(PASTORAL ASSISTANT)
415-864-8000

Christo.pappadamos@annunciation.org

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Name.name@Annunciation.org

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Please submit your articles, photos and information by the 20th of the month for consideration for inclusion in the next month's Herald publication.
denise.yeilding@annunciation.org



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL 2025 STEWARDSHIP COMMITMENT CARD

Name _____ Preferred Number () _____
Spouse Name _____ Cell Number () _____
Address _____ Email _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Names/ages of dependents under 18 _____

I prefer receiving communications via:
☐ Email ☐ Mail ☐ Both

COMMITMENT

\$ _____ per week, month, year (circle one)

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

Security Code _____

Name as appears on card _____ Signature _____

2025 Stewards as of March 22

Demetria Aleck
 Patricia Aleck
 Maria Allen
 George & Tessa Ambus
 Philippos & Diala Athanasiades
 Annamarie & Robert Balian
 Nicholas Balian
 Bradley Banks
 Constantine Barlas
 Bryan Cheong
 Susan Condon
 Chris Contos
 Ethel Davies
 Anastasia Dekaristos
 Evangelos Dekaristos
 Nicholas & Stephanie Delis
 Kathy Dermitzakis & Nicholas Dermitzakis-Pittler
 Anirudh & Brittany Dhawan
 Brittany Dhawan
 Nicholas & Janine Economides
 Anthony Elite
 Mia & Mike Fanourgiakis
 Evgenia Fkiaras
 George & Sophia Fonti
 Marianthe & Charalampos Fragakis
 David & Kathie Garibaldi
 Sophia Gasparatos
 John & Sophia Georgiadis
 Constantine & Joanne Glafkides
 Bonnie Grampas
 Katie & Bob Grohs
 Leo & Tiffany Haginicols
 Costas & Ria Haralambopoulos
 Andrew Herrington
 Patrick Hillas
 Vicki Holloway
 Katina Kallas
 Bill Karas
 Athanasios & Niki Kastoras
 Gianni Kefalas
 Michael & Georgette Klobuchar
 Deno & Bella Konstantinidis
 Nicholas Kontonis
 Angelos Kottas
 Angelo & Victoria Koutoulas
 Dina Koutoulas
 Patricia Koutoulas
 Pete & Stavroula Koutoulas
 Alexander & Elisavet Kozak
 John & Dina Kratsas
 Chris & Irene Kyriacou
 Rev Fr. Stephen & Pres. Vasiliki Kyriacou
 Stelios Kyriacou
 John & Magdalene Lampros
 Effie & Stephen Lawrence
 Ryan Lukehart & Marie Vorrises
 Lea & Bob Lyberopoulos
 Elaine Makras
 Thalia Makras
 Helen Markanton
 George Mattis
 Mary Mavrakakis
 Aglaia Mavroudis
 Basile Mavroudis
 Tasso & Natalia Mavroudis

Helen McClure
 Irene Melitas
 Faye Mellos
 Michael & Christina Misthos
 Allyson Montgomery
 Tula Mouroufas
 Dean & Maria Nicolacakis
 Victor Nicolacakis
 Dustin Novo
 Matthew Nuris
 Teia Nuris
 Thomas & Liberty Nuris
 Alexander & Lula Ossipoff
 Peter Pantages
 Sophia Papageorgiou
 Robert & Alma Papingu
 Voula Pappas
 James & Vicki Parry
 Pamela Piccinini
 Christina Poulakidas
 Sakee & Irene Poulakidas
 Despina Poulos
 Jim & Kelly Rakos
 Nick & Patty Rally
 Maria Ramos
 Evangelia Raptis Zarou & Andrew Zarou
 Jacob Reidel
 Jacob Riedel
 Mike Sarikakis & Katerina Sarkikakis
 Demo Selianitis
 Helena Selianitis
 Louie Selianitis
 Michele Siouris
 Archon Paul & Evangelia Sogotis
 Rose Sogotis
 Mike & Vicky Spachis
 Marios & Anastasia Stathopoulos
 Nicholas Svetcoff
 Joy Tamaras
 Helen & Tom Taptelis
 Nick Tarlson & Mauna Arnzen
 Jim Thomas
 Aphrodite Tsagaris
 Eleni Tsagaris
 Konstantinos Vafiadis
 Nickolas & Lourdes Varanis
 Foula Vasilogiorgis
 Aris & Kathy Vellis
 Gus & Meena Vellis
 Adrienne Verreos
 Angelo Vorrises
 Constantinos Vorrises
 Denis & Renee Vorrises
 George & Loula Vorrises
 Jim & Louise Vorrises
 Stephanie & Nanette Vorrises
 Denise Yeilding
 Bessie York
 Evanthis 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.

Lazarus Saturday Gathering with HOPE!

We are excited to invite all youth to join us on **Saturday, April 12 at 11:30 AM** for a special gathering as we fold palms in preparation for Palm Sunday. This meaningful activity will take place immediately following the **Liturgy for the Saturday of Lazarus**, giving our youth an opportunity to actively participate in this beautiful tradition as we prepare for the start of Holy Week. The gathering will be a time for fellowship and service as we work together to create the palm crosses. Afterward, we will head to **Ghirardelli Square** for some well-deserved ice cream and a fun time of fellowship. This is a great opportunity to enjoy a sweet treat, relax, and connect with friends in a joyful atmosphere. We hope to see all our youth there for this fun, meaningful, and community-building event!

Please RSVP by April 7, 2025 to **Natalia Mavroudis** at natalia.mavroudis@annunciation.org.

A poster for a Palm Folding event. At the top center is a circular logo for the "ORTHODOX GENERAL OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE VIRGIN MARY" with the text "FOUNDED IN 1921" and "The Holy Trinity Church, 10000 1st Ave. S.W., Seattle, WA 98148". The background features stylized palm fronds. The title "PALM FOLDING" is in large, bold, serif capital letters. Below the title, the text reads: "Join us for a special youth gathering on Saturday, April 12 at 11:30 AM, as we come together to fold palm crosses for Palm Sunday". Further down, it says: "Afterwards, we'll head to Ghirardelli Square for ice cream and fellowship! All youth are invited—come be part of this meaningful tradition and enjoy some sweet fun with friends!". At the bottom, it says: "RSVP by April 7 to natalia.mavroudis@annunciation.org".

PALM FOLDING

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as we come together to fold palm crosses for Palm Sunday

Afterwards, we'll head to Ghirardelli Square for ice cream and
fellowship! All youth are invited—come be part of this meaningful
tradition and enjoy some sweet fun with friends!

RSVP by April 7 to natalia.mavroudis@annunciation.org

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.'"

Revelation 21.1-3

BASILE

LIVE AT THE CATHEDRAL

Join us for a night
of non-stop
laughter as we
welcome Basile the
Comedian to the
Annunciation
Cathedral!



Friday, April 25

No-Host Cocktails: 6:30 PM

Showtime: 7:30 PM

General Admission \$50*

VIP + Preferred Seating \$85*

**plus eventbrite fees*

Tickets at: www.annunciation.org/Basile

Annunciation Cathedral
245 Valencia Street, San Francisco



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



Elpida



Elpida Retreat: A Day of Faith, Service, and Community

This year's Elpida Retreat was truly extraordinary, marking the fourth gathering of faith, learning, and service. It was heartening to see the Elpida program continue to grow and flourish, bringing together families from diverse backgrounds, including children from our neighboring Russian and Palestinian Orthodox parishes. This retreat strengthened the fabric of our Orthodox family and expanded our mission, serving as a testament to the power of community. I couldn't be more proud of how far we have come. When Christo Pappademos and I launched the Elpida program in 2021, we had no idea how it would evolve. At the time, the future was uncertain, but today, as I look at what we have built, my heart swells with gratitude. None of this success would be possible without the incredible dedication of our Elpida board. Their vision, commitment, and support have transformed this program into a true family, and I am deeply appreciative of each and every one of them.

A Day of Learning, Service, and Fun

The retreat featured meaningful, hands-on activities that engaged the children and deepened their connection to our Orthodox faith. Each station was thoughtfully designed to teach them about saints and significant moments in the

life of the Church. The children's enthusiasm, curiosity, and eagerness to learn were truly inspiring.

One station focused on the life and teachings of St. Gregory Palamas, emphasizing his dedication to prayer and contemplation. As part of this activity, the children made candles, symbolizing the light they can bring to others, just as St. Gregory did. Another station celebrated St. Modestos, the Greek Orthodox patron saint of animals. Here, the children built birdhouses to honor God's creatures, fostering a spiritual connection with nature. The final station centered on the resurrection of

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Elpida, from page 7

Lazarus, an event that foreshadows Christ's own resurrection. The children learned about Lazarus' life and death and baked traditional *lazarakia*, sweet breads symbolizing the story. These activities brought our faith to life and provided a memorable learning experience for all.

This year's service project was particularly meaningful as we partnered with the San Francisco Fire Department to create blankets for those in need. Thanks to Captain Dustin Novo and his team, the children were able to give back to the community in a tangible way. It was humbling to witness their eagerness to help others, knowing their efforts would have a direct impact on those most in need. To make the experience even more special, Captain Novo and his team brought their fire engine to be blessed by Father Angelo. This moment reminded us of the many ways we can serve and protect our communities.



Honoring a Legacy of Service: The Tony and Helen Sooklaris Scholarship

The retreat also featured the presentation of the Tony and Helen Sooklaris Scholarship, established in loving memory of John Sooklaris' parents. This scholarship honors individuals who exemplify service, leadership, and dedication to our community—values that Tony and Helen embodied throughout their lives.

Tony and Helen Sooklaris were pillars of the Annunciation community, leaving an indelible mark through their generosity, leadership, and unwavering commitment to their faith and heritage. Married for 59 years, they worked side by side in business and service, embodying the values of hard work, family, and community.

Tony, a World War II veteran, entrepreneur, and inventor, was known for his brilliant mind, generosity, and storytelling. He co-founded Masterpiece Artist Canvas, revolutionizing the art supply industry, and was a dedicated leader in the Greek Orthodox Annunciation Cathedral and the Pan-



Cretan Association of America. Helen, a talented violinist in her youth, was a tireless advocate for her Cretan heritage, serving as a leader in the Pancretan Association's Ariadne Chapter for over 30 years. Her legendary Cretan *pilafi* was a staple at Greek festivals, bringing people together in celebration.

This year's recipient, Nikolaos "Niko" Mastrokyriakos, is a truly deserving honoree, embodying the values of service, leadership, and faith. An active participant in the Elpida program since its inception, Niko has demonstrated unwavering dedication to his church and community. His involvement in Jr. GOYA, the altar, Greek dance, community kitchen, and church basketball highlights his deep commitment to both his faith and heritage. His kindness, leadership, and compassion set him apart, and his strong moral character and dedication to giving back ensure that the legacy of Tony and Helen Sooklaris continues to inspire future generations. Congratulations, Niko, on this well-deserved recognition!

Fun and Fellowship

As the retreat came to a close, the energy shifted to fun and fellowship. We gathered in the hall for a variety of inflatable activities, including obstacle courses, slides, and sumo wrestling suits. The kids had a blast! The joy and excitement in the air reminded us that fellowship is an integral part of our community. The day ended on a sweet note with cotton candy, the perfect treat to cap off a beautiful day.

The Power of Community

Retreats like these are essential for the growth of our children's faith and personal development. A strong, supportive community plays a vital role in fostering emotional resilience and a sense of belonging. As The Harvard Gazette notes, "Children who are actively engaged in a supportive community develop stronger emotional resilience, a sense of belonging, and a greater commitment to service." Similarly, The Atlantic states that faith-based communities provide children with a moral



foundation that carries them into adulthood. At Elpida, we take great pride in offering this kind of foundation—a space where children are nurtured, supported, and encouraged to grow in both faith and character.

We are deeply grateful to all our Elpida families for your commitment and support. Your participation makes all the difference, ensuring that our children grow up surrounded by faith, love, and the support of a strong Orthodox community.



Special Thanks

The success of this retreat would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of our incredible Elpida Board. Christo Pappademos, John Lampros, Peter Cazanis, Maria Nicolacakis, and Eleni Taptelis have been instrumental in shaping this vibrant program. Their shared vision and dedication continue to inspire and uplift our community.

A heartfelt thank you to our volunteers, including Father Niko Bekris for his leadership and spiritual guidance. Special appreciation goes to Katerina Cazanis, Iliana Cazanis, Armineh Vafiades, Stelios Vafiades, Irene Kyriacou, Niko Mithos, Evgenia Fkaris, Niki Haris, Nicole Papageorge,

Georgia Haris, George Haris, Eleni Kelly, Andriana Metaxas, Christina Heliotis, and Jenny Dedo for ensuring the retreat ran smoothly. Additional thanks to my grandmother, Nonie Giusti, and my brother, Mathew Kosmadakis, for preparing the pastitsios, as well as my husband, Mike Fanourgiakis, for his continued support. To my mother-in-law, Mary Fanourgiakis, and our koumbara, Lea Papavasiliou, for their invaluable help in the kitchen—thank you!



Upcoming Events

As we continue through this blessed Lenten season, we invite you to participate in our upcoming Elpida service project: the purchase of luminaries for the Holy Friday Services. These luminaries will light the path for the Epitaphios procession and can be purchased for \$20 in memory of a loved one or for the health of a family member. All proceeds will support future Elpida service projects. Luminaries will be available for purchase online and during coffee hour.

Once again, thank you to everyone who made this retreat such a memorable and enriching experience. Through faith, love, and service, our Elpida community continues to shine brightly. We look forward to seeing you at our next gathering on Lazarus Saturday, April 13th, for liturgy, lunch, and palm folding. Stay connected, stay involved, and help us continue building a future rooted in faith.



63rd Annual Ladies Philoptochos

Luncheon & Fashion Show

MAMMA MIA!

A Journey Through Greece

Celebrating Women and Mothers of the Century

Ethel Davies & Despina Kokalis

Saturday, May 10, 2025

Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco

245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA

12:00pm Cocktail Reception ~ 12:30pm Lunch

Donation: Adults \$75 Children \$40

Part of our proceeds benefits Kids n' Cancer

**Donation Also Includes Valet Parking, Complimentary Mimosas,
Champagne & Wine**

.....
Please return this portion by May 1, 2025

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Ladies Philoptochos

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____ **Email** _____

Please reserve ____ **Adult @ \$75 and** ____ **Children under 12 years @ \$40** **Total amount enclosed \$** ____

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

Vegetarian meal available upon request.

Please communicate all dietary restrictions/allergies ahead of time.

Tables of 10 available. Please list all attendees' names on the back of this form.

Seat assignments will be available at the door.

I am unable to attend and would like to make a donation to Philoptochos Charities of \$ ____

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



Philoptochos News

Xronia Polla

The Philoptochos would like to wish long-time member and generous supporter, Despina Kokalis, a very Happy 100th Birthday!! She celebrated this milestone on March 8th. AXIOS



Epitaphios Flowers

Together with the Parish Council we are collecting donations to decorate the Epitaphios. Talented Philoptochos and community members ensure that the Epitaphios is a thing of beauty for all to see on Good Friday. Donate by scanning the QR code, or at our table on Sundays.

Easter Bake

A reminder that all tsoureki and koulourakia prepaid order pick-up is on Palm Sunday, April 13th between 12noon-2p.

*Is there anyone
here who is a
devout lover
of God? Let
them enjoy this
beautiful bright
festival. Is there
anyone who
is a grateful
servant? Let
them rejoice
and enter into
the joy of their
Lord!"*

- Paschal Homily
of Saint John
Chrysostom

100



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
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COURTYARD DEDICATION CEREMONY
& LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF

Reverend Father Stephen Kyriacou

Palm Sunday, April 13, 2025

FOLLOWING THE DEDICATION CEREMONY

\$40 per adult / \$20 children (12 & under)
RSVP by 4/6/25: www.annunciation.org/events
or call (415) 864-8000

*Join us as we celebrate Father Stephen's lasting
impact and the future of our Cathedral*