



ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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Rev. Father Simon Thomas, Parish Priest

Rev. Father Nicholas Vieron, Pastor Emeritus

Sunday, September 23, 2018

First Sunday of
Luke

Holy Bread

Enosis Touliatos

Ushers

Naji Nassif

Diane Kavelaras

Demie Bitinis

Epistle Reader

Scott McKee

Coffee Fellowship

Open—Coffee will
be available in
Cotros Hall

Welcome to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church. We are blessed that you have come to our worship service, and hope that you will be both enlightened and inspired. Every Sunday we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ. The Christian Orthodox Church is the Church of the Resurrection and we rejoice in the Lord's triumph over death.

If you are attending an Orthodox Church for the first time, our service may be foreign and perplexing to you. We assure you that everything we do is firmly rooted in the Scriptures. Please feel free to participate to the level that you feel comfortable.

The Orthodox Church understands the Eucharist – the Lord's Supper – to be, among other things, the paramount expression of Christian unity. The unfortunate reality of our day is that the various segments of Christendom are not unified with the historic Orthodox Faith. We fervently pray for this unity as noted in every service of the Orthodox Church. *Since participation in the Eucharist expresses a unity with all the dogma and practices of the Orthodox Church, non-Orthodox guests do not receive Holy Communion.* All guests are invited to receive the blessed bread at the end of the service.

First Antiphon

Through the intercessions of the Theotokos, Savior, save us!

Verse 1: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless His holy name.

Psalm 102:1

Verse 2: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all that He has done for you.

Psalm 102:2

Verse 3: The Lord in heaven has prepared His throne, and His kingdom rules over all.

Psalm 102:17

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Second Antiphon

Save us, O Son of God, Who arose from the dead. We sing to You: Alleluia

Verse 1: Praise the Lord, O my soul; I will praise the Lord in my life; I will chant unto my God for as long as I have my being.

Psalm 145:1-2

Verse 2: Blessed is He of whom the God of Jacob is his help, whose hope is in the Lord his God.

Psalm 145:5

Verse 3: The Lord shall be King unto eternity; your God, O Zion, from generation to generation.

Psalm 145:10

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, both now and forever, and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Third Antiphon

Apolytikion of the Sunday

Verse: This is the day the Lord has made; let us be glad and rejoice in it. Let the heavens and the earth praise Him.

Psalm 117:24; Psalm 68:34

Resurrectional Apolytikion

Sung before and after the Small Entrance in the Eighth Mode

You did abolish death by Your Cross; You did open Paradise to the thief; You did transform the myrrh-bearers' lamentation, and did bid Your Apostles to preach that You are risen, O Christ God, granting great mercy to the world.

Hymn for Conception of the Forerunner

Sung after the hymn above in the Fourth Mode

Rejoice, O you barren one who has not borne until now; for lo, in all truth you have conceived the lamp of the Sun, and he shall send forth his light over all the earth, which is afflicted with blindness. Dance, O Zacharias, and cry out with great boldness: The one to be born is the blest Prophet of God Most High.

Hymn of the Annunciation

Sung after the hymn above in the Fourth Mode

Today is the beginning of our salvation and the revelation of the mystery before the Ages. The Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel proclaims the great grace. Therefore, with him let us cry out unto the Theotokos, "Hail, Rejoice, O highly favored one; the Lord is with you."

Σήμερον τῆς σωτηρίας ἡμῶν τὸ κεφάλαιον, καὶ τοῦ ἀπ' αἰῶνος μυστηρίου ἡ φανέρωσις· ὁ Υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, Υἱὸς τῆς Παρθένου γίνεται, καὶ Γαβριὴλ τὴν χάριν εὐαγγελίζεται. Διὸ καὶ ἡμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ τῇ Θεοτόκῳ βοήσωμεν· Χαῖρε κεχαριτωμένη, ὁ Κύριος μετὰ σοῦ.

Seasonal Kontakion

Sung after the hymn above in the Second Mode

O Protection of Christians that cannot be put to shame, mediation unto the creator most constant: O despise not the voices of those who have sinned; but be quick, O good one, to come unto our aid, who in faith cry unto you: Hasten to intercession and speed you to make supplication, O you who does ever protect, O Theotokos, them that honor you.

**Sunday, September 23,
2018**

Conception of John the
Baptist
Sts. Xanthippe & Polyxene

**Monday, September 24,
2018**

St. Thekla the Equal-to-the
Apostles
St. Silouan of Athos

**Tuesday, September 25,
2018**

St. Euphrosyne of Alexan-
dria
St. Paphnoutios & his 546
Companions

**Wednesday, September
26, 2018**

Falling Asleep of St. John
the Evangelist and Teholo-
gian

**Thursday, September 27,
2018**

St. Kallistratos & his 49
Companions
Sts. Mark, Aristarchos, &
Zenon

**Friday, September 28,
2018**

St. Chariton the Confessor
St. Alkison of Nicopolis

**Saturday, September 29,
2018**

St. Kyriakos of Palestine
St. Petronia the Martyr

Epistle: Galatians 4:22-27

**Prokeimenon. Grave Mode.
Psalm 63.11,1**

The righteous shall rejoice in the Lord.
Verse: Oh God, hear my cry.

**The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Galatians
4:22-27**

Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

Sunday, September 23, 2018

Today is Fast Free | No fasting restrictions.

Monday, September 24, 2018

Today is Fast Free | No fasting restrictions.

Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Today is Fast Free | No fasting restrictions.

Wednesday, September 26, 2018

Fast Day (Wine and Oil Allowed) | Wine and oil are allowed. Refrain from meat, fish, dairy, and eggs.

Thursday, September 27, 2018

Today is Fast Free | No fasting restrictions.

Friday, September 28, 2018

Strict Fast | Refrain from meat, fish, oil, wine, dairy, and eggs.

Saturday, September 29, 2018

Today is Fast Free | No fasting restrictions.

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

At that time, as Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret, he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

Visitation Committee

September: Susanna Peters & Cathe Skefos

October: Sophie Theodore & Kristine Wagner

November: Loretta Taras & Tasia Vergos

December: Anastasia Terranova & Athena Jamison

January: Nancy Tashie, Jan Futris & Tina Liollo

February: Vicki Hoover & Evangelina Panas

March: Linda Nichols, Anne Schmitt, & Debbie Bookas

April: Cary Chiungos & Mary Katherine Taras

May: Demie Bitinis, Tricia Grantham, Emily Capadalis Love, & Georgia Karris

June: Despina Karas & Angela Tobias

July: Maria Moore & Diane Kavelaras

August: Elaine Daniels & Maria Wasserman

The following members of our parish family have requested visitation. For address and/or contact information please check your parish directory or contact the Church Office.

Alec Collis
Maria Hetos
Stella Nichols

Georgia Smith
Jimmy Smith
Kosta Taras

Sophie Theodore

Please contact Kristine Wagner if you would like to volunteer to be on the 2018-2019 Visitation Committee, a ministry of the Elpis Philoptochos.

Announcements

◆ **Father Simon's Weekly Bible Study**

We meet **every Wednesday at 6:30 pm in Cotros Hall**. You are welcome to bring meatless pot-luck to share with the group.

◆ **Community Picnic & Softball Game sponsored by AHEPA & Daughters of Penelope, Sunday September 23rd 4:00 pm** at Houston Levee Park.

Thank you to the Vergos Family (aka—Rendezvous) for donating the barbeque dinner! All Free!

◆ **Daughters of Penelope Sisterhood Luncheon, Sunday, September 30th at 1:00 pm** at the home of President Phani Mitchell.

All ladies of our Community, ages 18 and over, are invited. Please feel free to bring a friend. For more information, please contact Anastasia Terranova at 901-361-4382.

◆ **Greek School Registration is Open.**

See Despina in Cotros Hall on Sundays after Divine Liturgy.

◆ **Weekly Choir Rehearsals**

Weekly Choir Rehearsals will be held **each Thursday evening from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm** unless there is a service scheduled. The only exception will be Thanksgiving Week. All are invited to attend and we welcome all current, returning, and new voices!

Stewardship Update

A steward is one who manages another's property or resources; the Christian, therefore, is a steward of everything he is and has, including his own body and soul, for according to the mystery of salvation, we possess nothing from ourselves, not even our own life and being; all belongs to God and is given to us by the Father through His Son because of the richness of His love and mercy.

The Theology of Stewardship in Light of Orthodox Tradition by Fr Paul Wesche

What an interesting perspective of Stewardship. When stewardship is mentioned, we immediately think of money or time or talents. What about being a good steward of your soul? We all can improve our stewardship of our soul. An investment in your soul, is an investment that will live for eternity through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior.

Here is an interesting fact. Our total 2018 expenses equate to \$536,692. So what is our per day cost to operate God's Church? Every day, we spend \$1,470.39 just to keep the doors open. Think about that for a second. Some family's monthly house note is that or much less per month.

Please fulfill your Stewardship commitment for 2018. It is much appreciated by all of The Annunciation Parish. It's God's home...It's our home.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday, September 23rd, First Sunday of Luke

† Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am

† Nursery Available 10:00 am

† Sunday School 11:00 am

† Coffee Fellowship—OPEN

† Community Picnic & Softball Game at Houston Levee Park 4:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Tuesday, September 25th

† Library Open 10:00 am—2:00 pm

Wednesday, September 26th

† Bible Study 6:30 pm

Thursday, September 27th

† Choir Practice 6:30 pm—8:00 pm

Sunday, September 30, Second Sunday of Luke

† Orthros/Divine Liturgy 8:45 am

† Nursery Available 10:00 am

† Sunday School 11:00 am

† GOYA Bowling Event 12:00 pm

† DOP Sisterhood Luncheon & Installation of Officers 1:00 pm at Phani Mitchell's House