



## ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

FR. JAMES RETELAS, PARISH PRIEST

To: SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS  
Re: HOLY WEEK SERVICES IN THE EASTERN ORTHODOX CHURCH

April 10, 2019  
St. Gregory V, Patriarch of Constantinople

More than 300 million Eastern Orthodox Christians throughout the world will observe Easter on Sunday, April 28, 2019. The Orthodox date for Easter is based on a decree of the Ecumenical Council of Nicea in 325 A.D. According to this decree, Easter must be celebrated on the Sunday following the first full moon of the vernal equinox.

The entire week from April 21 – April 28, 2019 will include two and three church services a day. Church services are celebrated morning, afternoon, and evening, along with preparations for the services taking place in between services.

Eastern Orthodox Christians are expected to spend this holy season in prayer and fasting. One of the most important days of the week is Holy Friday, April 26, 2019. In addition to the three services focused around the Crucifixion and the Cross, a religious program has been set up for our young people on that day.

It is for this reason that I would like to ask your cooperation to please excuse the students of our Parish so that they may be able to participate in the services of Holy Friday. Your permission will be greatly appreciated in permitting the following student:

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to be excused for religious services.

If there are any questions please feel free to contact me at the Church Office, (916) 443-2033, ex. 227 (email: [frjames@annunciationsac.org](mailto:frjames@annunciationsac.org))

Once again, I thank you for your cooperation and may God bless you in the remainder of the academic year.

Faithfully,

Reverend James Retelas, Presiding Priest