GOYANGEEDING NOON (AFTER SUNDAY SCHOOL) FIRST FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM

APRIL - NO MEETING MAY - 5TH





BYZANTINE CHANT

Interested in learning the tradition and music of the church?

Do you want to help on Sundays and during the Lenten Services?

> Dusan and Yianni are eager to welcome you to the Chant Stand!

> > CONTACT YIANNI FOR MORE INFORMATION

Holy Friday Youth Retreat

April 26th Holy and Great Friday

Please join us for services and a Lenten retreat with our youth (1st grade through High School)

Come to the Church Office or look in the This Week at Annunciation e-mail for a letter from Fr. James to be excused from school to attend the services for this holy day



9:00 am Service of the Royal Hours

11:30 am - 3:00 pm Holy Friday Youth Retreat Sessions and Service Project

3:00 pm Great Vespers: The Descent from the Cross

7:00 pm Service of the Lamentations

Mark your calendars

Please Sign up on CCB or contact Yianni Magoulias (Magoulias@AnnunciationSac.org)

Saturday of Lazarus & Palm Sunday

Help us fold palm crosses for Palm Sunday Saturday, April 20th Orthros 9:00 am | Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Folding palm crosses and Lenten Pancake Breakfast to follow

LENTEN SERVICES

Please join us every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during great lent!

Mondays 6:00 pm | Great Compline Wednesdays 6:00 pm | Presanctified Liturgy Fridays 7:00 pm | Salutations to the Theotokos

Summer GOYA Trip

Let's do something! The bay area for a Giants game? The beach in LA and Magic Mountain?

Contact Yianni for more information!

The Annunciation Philoptochos cordially invites you to attend their

PALM SUNDAY LUNCHEON Sunday, April 21st

Adults \$10 | Children 3-12 \$5 Please call Rula Manikas if you would like to reserve a table of 8 or 10. (916) 606-2193 Individual tickets will be sold at the door.

Agape Vespers and Easter Picnic

At the Lincoln Property Sunday, April 28th Agape Vespers 12:00 pm | \$10 per person, max \$40 per car For more information call: Chris Georgoulias 916.541.6124 | Nick Avdis 916.813.3146



One of my favorite books has always been Homer's *Odyssey*. In short, Odysseus, while returning to his home on the island of Ithaka, he encounters a series of distractions and hardships, some his fault, some not. The more and more I read, analyze, and reflect on this book, the more I learn.

Odysseus's odyssey is much like our journey, or odyssey, through Great Lent – and our entire life as an Orthodox Christian. We encounter hardships, things we cannot control. We must act, react, and adapt to the situation so that we can progress. Sometimes, we create the problem ourselves, and we have to learn and grow from the experience.

Great Lent reminds us of the prayer attributed to St. Ephrem the Syrian. This prayer speaks very truthfully about what we need and don't need as Orthodox Christians. The prayer says,

O Lord and Master of my life, take away from me the spirit of laziness and meddling, the lust for power, and idol talk. But give to me, your servant, the spirit of prudence, humility, patience, and love.

Yes, Lord and King, grant me to see my own faults and not to judge my brother, for you are blessed to the ages of ages, AMEN!

We say this prayer often in the Lenten services of Great Compline and the Salutations to the Theotokos, but in reality, we should say this prayer regularly throughout our lives. May this prayer written by St. Ephrem the Syrian keep us on our path – our odyssey – towards the Resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ and to living eternally with God.

The Lenten ODYSSEY



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