

ASSUMPTION OF THE
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
5761 E. Colorado St.
Long Beach, CA 90814

NON-PROFIT ORG
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PERMIT NO. 344

THE PANAYIA

Assumption Of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Greek Orthodox Church
Long Beach, CA



Worship Services

Regular Schedule

Orthros 8:45 AM

Divine Liturgy 10:00 AM

**NOTE: Sunday Divine
Liturgy starts at
10:00AM year-round.**

*See enclosed calendar for
dates and times of other ser-
vices this month.*



FEBRUARY 2014

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

5761 East Colorado Street, Long Beach, CA 90814-1954

Phone (562) 494-8929 - Fax (562) 985-1379

Email – office@assumptionlb.org

Rev. Fr. Christos Kanakis, Proistamenos

Voula Michail - Kitsios, Office Administrator
Penny Benetatos, Choir Director

Jorge Rivera, Sexton

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Chris Dolas - President
David Matty - Vice President
Jimmy Mentas - Recording Secretary
Jimmy Eleopoulos - Corresponding Secretary
George Demos - Treasurer

Board Members

Kathy Bastas, Dino Syrengelas, Olympia Stapakis,
George Stavros, Nick Monios, Sam Platis,
Tasos Papas, Nick Zamvakellis

AHEPA

Tasos Papas - President

Bulletin Coordinator

Voula Michail - Kitsios

Bookstore

Zoe Falley - Administrator

Choir

Pinió Benetatos - Director & Organist
Karen Fic - President

Church School

Juliana Augoustatos - Superintendent

Daughters of Penelope

Catherine Vackrinios
Sofie Batshoun

Family Night

Sam Platis

Junior Choir

Pinió Benetatos - Director
Karen Fic - Assistant Director

Greek School

Kathryn Condaras - Principal
Donna Stavros - P.T.A

Hope/Joy

Maria Georgakopoulos - Advisor
Dusty Hanson - Advisor

Junior GOYA

Georgi Spirtos Francis - Advisor
Tia Kanavos, Vasso Conley

PHILOPTOCHOS

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Karen Fic - 1st Vice President
Amelia Ladas - 2nd Vice President
Mary Lofton- Correspond. Secretary
Lia Kakaris - Recording Secretary
Nikki Andrews - Treasurer
Marilyn Coats - Assistant Treasurer
Kathy Bastas - Advisor

Board Members

Eftihia Missios, Olympia Stapakis, Andria Salsman,
Matoula Batshoun, Zoe Falley, Vickie Hennig,
Paris Kastanas, Kay Platis

GOYA

President - Christina Karidakis
Vice President - Sina Bacol
Treasurer - Margo Papacalos
Corres. Secretary - Dena Bussa
Rec. Secretary - Tasia Matty
Historian - Christa Demos, Lexi Varonos
Advisors - Lucia Papacalos,
Vickie Demos, Maria Bussa
Athletic Director: David Matty
Email: goyalb.events@gmail.com
Greek Cultural Arts and Dance
Dina Lioulis - President
Maria Georgakopoulos - Vice President
Georgia Alvertos - Corresponding Secretary
Dusty Hanson - Recording Secretary
Elene Dalkos - Treasurer

Senior Christians

Nick Monios - President

Sons of Pericles

Christo Beckas - President

Stewardship Ministry

Kathy Bastas (Chair)
Camille Dolas, Max & Mary Lofton,
Kay Platis, Cathy Shweiri

Trisagio Ministry

Max & Mary Lofton, Vickie Hennig, Yiota Beckas

Welcome Ministry

Kathy Bastas (Chair), Camille Dolas, Max & Mary
Lofton, Kay Platis, Cathy Shweiri

Υπαπαντή

Greek Column by Voula Michail

Στις 2 Φεβρουαρίου εορτάζεται η Υπαπαντή του Κυρίου ημών Ιησού Χριστού. Το 541 μχ, ο αυτοκράτορας Ιουστινιανός καθιερώνει την εορτή της Υπαπαντής, της ημέρας δηλαδή που ο Ιησούς Χριστός προϋπαντήθηκε στον Ναό από τον γέροντα ιερέα Συμεών.

Σύμφωνα με τον νόμο του Μωυσή, κάθε πρωτότοκο αρσενικό παιδί έπρεπε να αφιερώνεται στον Θεό και οι γονείς να προσφέρουν, την τεσσαρακοστή ημέρα από την γέννησή του, θυσία στον Θεό ένα ζεύγος τρυγόνων ή δύο νεοσσούς περιστερών. Έτσι η Θεοτόκος, 40 ημέρες μετά τη Γέννηση του Χριστού, πήγε τον υιό της στην Ιερουσαλήμ για να τον παρουσιάσει στο Ιερό.

Την ίδια ημέρα που έμπαιναν στον Ναό η Παναγία, ο Ιησούς Χριστός και ο Ιωσήφ ο μνήστωρ, ήταν εκεί και ο δίκαιος Συμεών, φωτισμένος από το Άγιος Πνεύμα, για να τους προϋπαντήσει στην είσοδο. Ο Συμεών, που ήταν ένας δίκαιος, ευλαβής και ηλικιωμένος ιερέας, είχε πληροφορηθεί από θεία αποκάλυψη, ότι δεν θα πεθάνει προτού δει τον αναμενόμενο Μεσσία και Σωτήρα του κόσμου.

Ο Συμεών περίμενε στην είσοδο του ναού κι εκεί συναντιέται με τον Ιησού, τον οποίο οδηγεί στο ιερό συνοδευόμενος από την Παναγία και τον Ιωσήφ. Ο Συμεών δέχτηκε στις αγκάλες του τον Κύριο έχοντας καταλάβει από θεία φώτιση ότι αυτός είναι ο αναμενόμενος Μεσσίας. Τότε ο Συμεών δοξάζει τον Θεό λέγοντας "Νυν απολύεις τον δούλον σου, Δέσποτα, κατά το ρήμα σου εν ειρήνη, ότι είδον οι οφθαλμοί μου το σωτήριόν σου, ο ητοίμασας κατά πρόσωπον πάντων των λαών, φως εις αποκάλυψιν εθνών και δόξαν λαού σου Ισραήλ". Αυτή η φράση ερμηνεύεται ότι ο Συμεών, με χαρά κλείνει τα μάτια του και παραδίδει την ψυχή του στον Θεό, έχοντας δει με τα μάτια του τον Σωτήρα του κόσμου. Γράφει χαρακτηριστικά ο Άγιος Νικόδημος ο Αγιορείτης πως όλοι θα ήθελαν να είναι στην θέση του Συμεών του Θεοδόχου και να κρατούν στην αγκαλιά τους τον Δεσπότη Χριστό.

Η Παναγία και ο Ιωσήφ ο μνήστωρ θαύμασαν αυτά που έλεγε ο Συμεών ο Θεοδόχος κι αυτός τότε τους ευλόγησε και είπε στην Θεοτόκο ότι ο Ιησούς Χριστός θα είναι σημείο αντιλεγόμενο, όσο πιστέψουν σ' Αυτόν θα σώσουν τις ψυχές τους, κι όσοι δεν Τον πιστέψουν θα χαθούν. Ο Συμεών προφητεύει ακόμη τον ψυχικό πόνο που θα νιώσει η Παναγία ως μητέρα του Χριστού κατά την Σταύρωση του.

Στον Ναό κατά την Υπαπαντή, βρισκόταν και η προφήτισσα Άννα, μια σεβάσμια γερόντισσα που περνούσε μέρα και νύχτα στο ιερό με νηστεία και προσευχή. Η προφήτισσα, αφού προσκύνησε τον Ιησού, δόξασε τον Θεό και έλεγε σε όλους ότι ήρθε ο Μεσσίας που θα φέρει τη λύτρωση σε όλους τους πιστούς.

Στις μέρες μας, 40 ημέρες μετά τη γέννηση ενός παιδιού, γίνεται ο σαραντισμός που είναι η προσφορά του νεογέννητου παιδιού στον Θεό και γίνεται σε μίμηση του σαραντισμού του Χριστού. Είναι το πρώτο βήμα που κάνει το παιδί προς την εκκλησία. Οι Πατέρες όρισαν τον αριθμό των 40 ημερών επειδή χρειάζεται κάποιο χρονικό διάστημα ο οργανισμός της γυναίκας για να επιστρέψει στην κατάσταση που ήταν πριν την εγκυμοσύνη. Στην ακολουθία του σαραντισμού ο ιερέας διαβάζει ευχές ευλογώντας το παιδί και την μητέρα.

To all of our Assumption Stewards . . . Thank You for the best Stewardship Income year in recorded history! In calendar year 2013, according to our latest data, Stewardship income exceeded \$253,800.00 (the previous highest income year was 2007 at \$253,700). Our Stewardship budget (set at the fall General Assembly in 2012) for Calendar Year 2013 was \$225,000!

Hopefully all of our parishioners understand the significance of the data above. But let us jog your memory just a little bit with the following:

1. Stewardship income helps us reduce our dependency on Festival income to meet the financial requirements of our parish. Our Festival net income has fluctuated greatly in the last several years from a low of approximately \$40,000 to a high of approximately \$130,000. No matter how hard our Parish Council works to determine a reasonable amount of income to place in the budget and no matter how well our Festival team plans and executes the Festival, the actual amount is highly affected by weather conditions that no one can predict and/or control. Additional stewardship income reduces the burden of continuously worrying about the future and allows us to concentrate on the now!

2. We are Greek Orthodox Christians. Our duty is to expand our faith in our community ("community" means among other Orthodox who do not regularly attend an Orthodox Church, and, most importantly, we must grow our Orthodox Christian faith among those who are not Christians and who are Christians of other faiths). To accomplish this goal we must reach out to the local community through our good work and support to bring them the Orthodox faith. Reaching out requires thoughtful planning and funding. Increased stewardship income will allow us to begin to better meet our obligations as Orthodox Christians

3. Assumption Church has been, and is, truly blessed in many ways:

- We have one of the most beautiful churches in the area,
- We have no mortgage, thanks to the many Stewards who have paid for all that you see.
- We have had a series of members on our Parish Council who have the wisdom and dedication to lead the community to its present place both physically and financially.
- We are blessed to have Fr. Christos at this very critical time. His attitude and personality fit us perfectly!
- Look at the youth in our community and compare them to what you read about in your daily newspaper. They are continuing our faith, they are best and smartest in their classes (at all levels). They participate in the community as and when asked. They attend church regularly. They will continue the growth of Orthodoxy. They are truly our future and increased stewardship income will lead us to even more exciting youth activities.
- Look at the many events we hold in the hall and gymnasium. Everything happens because our parishioners go into action . . . whether it be setting up and tearing down the hall, purchasing and preparing food, serving, cleaning up, overseeing those who are using the gym, maintain the Greek Dance programs, organizing Senior Christian activities, planning and teaching Sunday School lessons, teaching our children to speak Greek, etc, etc. However there are costs associated with these activities which increased stewardship income can help us meet.

We of the Assumption Stewardship Ministry are hopeful that after reading the above you were lifted by the above message and better understand your many blessings. We hope that a better understanding leads each of you to review your Stewardship pledge for 2014 and to determine whether or not your pledge truly reflects your receipt of the many blessings noted.

Thank You for Reading Our Message,

Stewardship Ministry Committee

Kathy Bastas(Parish Council Stewardship Liaison) Camille Dolas, Max Lofton, Mary Lofton, Kay Platis, & Cathy Shweiri

Blessing of Home and Business

On Epiphany Day (January 6th) we commemorate the manifestation of the Holy Trinity and the Baptism of Christ in the Jordan River. This Feast Day is one of the Greatest Feast Days of the Christian year along with Christmas and Pascha. The services for this great feast begin on January 5th as the eve of Epiphany and goes into January 6th. Both services are known as the as Megas Agiasmos, or the Great Blessing of Holy Water.

When the Early Church was baptizing the new Christians, the blessed water was drawn for drinking and sprinkling so that the faithful and their homes could be blessed. This is why the services on January 5th and 6th are similar to the Baptism Service.

On these days Holy Water is given to the faithful and the priest blesses all Orthodox homes and businesses with the sanctified water of the Epiphany Service, so that the blessing of Epiphany Season will be with us throughout the year.

With this tradition in mind, I will be blessing homes and businesses from January 13 through February 28 during the day. To schedule an appointment please call the church office at [562-494-8929](tel:562-494-8929) or e-mail your contact information at frchristos@assumptionlb.org

Happy New Year

Fr. Christos



Philoptochos

Here we are into February. December and January seemed to have just vanished. WE were so busy and got so much accomplished in those two months but, WE aren't through yet. WE have much to look forward to in the month of February. With the FDF and our "Philoptochos Tea" ahead of us we will definitely stay busy. The Tea Theme this year is: "Lights, Camera, Action". WE would love for all of you reading this today to sponsor a table. It's such fun and a way for you to be YOU! Show your creativity! Let me know if YOU and a friend would like to sponsor a table together. Pick your favorite movie, decorate a table centered on that theme, invite the guests you would like seated at your table, or, we will fill your table with our guests as they make their reservations. Give it some thought, let me know. The date is February 23, 2014. The cost is \$25.00 pp or \$250 per table of ten.

A review of the last two months; December was filled with many Christmas parties; the Veterans once again enjoyed a wonderful day of food, laughs and gifts. They were happy ladies at the end of the day and are looking forward to next year already. For those who attended, thank you! It makes their lives that much nicer just knowing WE care. Then; the Trinity Christmas Party; the children were elated to see Santa. (w/o his beard). Yep, Santa had his beard eaten by a reindeer before he arrived at the Assumption hall. The kids bought the story and the evening moved on as scheduled. Such is life huh! Even Santa makes blunders! Only in the eyes of a child could we pull that story off. They were thrilled regardless. Then we had our annual Philoptochos Christmas party which could have been better attended, but it seemed we ran out of time this year. Whatever the reason; the fellowship, the food and the entire day was beautiful. TGIS did an excellent job as usual. The money collected from our Christmas stocking went to a needy family. For this, WE thank you! This year we had more hardship cases than ever and it's not getting any better. So please keep us in mind if you would like to make a donation for such causes. WE do appreciate and need your help! All cases are kept confidential.

Epiphany went as usual. Another successful year! What a great turnout it was and such a great way of starting a new year. WE were blessed to have Metropolitan Gerasimos in attendance along with many of our own surrounding area Priests. The weather could not have been more beautiful. Philoptochos hosted a Clergy Family dinner for the Clergy in attendance on Epiphany evening. It was enjoyed by the Metropolitan and all Priests and their families. WE want to thank all of you who worked so many hours to make this happen. WE just couldn't have done it without you!

Hugs to all and "Thank you" from the bottom of my heart for your support. Together there is nothing "Philoptochos" can't accomplish.

Sunday, February 9th "Go Red Sunday" Ladies it's that time of year. Time to recognize our Hearts. Wear your favorite red outfit on February 9th. Heart awareness month.

Bobbie Soupos, President

**THE LONG BEACH CHAPTERS OF
AHEPA AND DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO A**

**Mid-Winter Conference Dinner Dance
FEBRUARY 8, 2014**

Betty Reckas Cultural Center
Assumption Greek Orthodox Church
5761 E. Colorado Street, Long Beach

Complete Dinner Catered by TGIS
Greek and American Music for Your Dancing Pleasure

Sixty Dollars per Person
Proceeds to Benefit Chapters' Charities and Assumption Church

Cocktails at 6:00 PM
Dinner at 7:00 PM
Dancing Following Dinner

We plan to attend the AHEPA/Daughters' Dinner Dance on February 8, 2014

Please hold: _____ tickets @ \$60.00 = \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

I Am Unable To Attend. Please Accept My Donation \$ _____

Reservations Due by January 25, 2014 - Tickets Held At The Door
Please return with your check payable to:
AHEPA Chapter 342
2660 Chatwin Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90815-1103

Additional Information Call: Tasos Papas (562)429-1985

Greek Dance & Cultural Arts School



Firstly, AGDCAS wants to say "THANK YOU" to all who helped make our Ringing in of the New Year such a success. We appreciate all that you do for our children. Your time, treasure, and talent is very valuable let us continue working together as a community to make our Panagia a strong and united community.

February is here which means so is FDF weekend. We want to invite all of our community to come watch our dancers perform at this year's FDF which will be held at the Anaheim Marriott on February 13-16, 2014. For more information please go to www.yourfdf.org.

Good Luck to our dancers, directors and musicians.

Go Long Beach!!!!

The AGDCAS Board

Orthodox Christian Catechism Starting Friday February 7th 2014 at 6 pm and Every Friday at 6 pm with Fr. Christos

Learn the Faith

The Sacraments

Bible Study

Lives of Saints

Icons

Orthodox Traditions

The Liturgy

Contemporary Issues

We will begin by learning how everything in the Divine Liturgy is connected to the Bible.

You will need (Available in Church Book Store):

*Orthodox Study Bible (Old Testament and New Testament)

*Introducing the Orthodox Church by Anthony Coniaris

Greek School

Greek School is in full swing. All teachers are very proud of their student's progress. This month there will be no Greek school on February 12th since most students are getting ready for FDF. We hope every one has a good time and enjoy the festivities. Next month Sunday, March 23rd Greek school will be celebrating "Greek Independence Day", please come and join us after church services for a lent luncheon and our students will be reciting poems in memory of this day.

Good luck to all our dancers at FDF.

Kathryn Condaras, Principal

Announcements

BAPTISMS & CHRISMATIONS

1/18/14

Stefan Troy John Ranniker

Proud Parents : Troy & Vesela Ranniker

Nona: Ilonka Nikolova Andonova

Congratulations!

1/25/14

Eleni Kostandina Liarakos

Proud Parents : George & Dezi Liarakos

Nonoi: Maria & Thodoris Tohomides

Na sas zisei!

WITH SYMPATHY

To Dimitri Castritis and family for the loss of his wife

Vivi on 12/31/13. May her memory be eternal.




February's Prosforo

Prosforo for the month of February is donated by Kay Platis. Thank you. If you would like to donate our Sunday prosforo please call the church office a 562-494-8929.

Choir

The Assumption Choir wishes to Thank All Those who participated in our Community Christmas Card.

*Assumption Philoptochos Cordially Invites You
To Join them for*


Philoptochos Annual Membership Tea

February 23, 2014 – 12 Noon
Betty H. Reckas Cultural Center
Assumption Greek Orthodox
Church, Long Beach

Casting Call: Looking for "Host/Hostesses" to sponsor a table in your favorite Movie/Theatre/Stage Theme. Who are your favorite Actors/Actress's? Interested ??
Contact Bobbie Soupos - (714-307-1488)

General Admission: \$30.00 per person

- > RSVP no later than February 16, 2014
- > Attendance by Reservation Only
- > Ticket will be held at the Door
- > **Mail check/s payable to Assumption Philoptochos to: Lia Kakaris**
- > **7910 Garner St., Long Beach, CA 90808**



Prize will be awarded for the best dressed table

In the year of the Lord - February 2014

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 + Υπαπαντή Ιησού Χριστού The Presentation of Our Lord Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am | 3 | 4 | 5 Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm | 6 Choir practice 7:15 pm | 7 GOYA Basketball practice 6:00 pm Orthodox Christian Catechism 6:00 pm | 8 |
| Triodio Begins 9 + ΙΣΤ Λουκά (Τελώνου & Φαρισαίου) 16th Sunday of Luke (Publican & Pharisee) Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am | 10 + Χαράλαμπος Ιερομ. Haralambos the Martyr Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am | 11 | 12 No Greek School | 13 FDF - Anaheim Marriot Choir practice 7:15 pm | 14 FDF - Anaheim Marriot | 15 FDF - Anaheim Marriot |
| 16 + ΙΖ' Λουκά (Ασώτου). 17th Sunday of Luke (Prodigal) Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am FDF - Anaheim Marriot | 17 Office closed (President's Day) | 18 Senior Christians Christmas Potluck 11:30 am P. C. Meeting 7:00 pm | 19 Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm | 20 Choir practice 7:15 pm | 21 GOYA Basketball practice 6:00 pm Orthodox Christian Catechism 6:00 pm | 22 + Ψυχοσάββατο 1st Saturday of Souls Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am |
| 23 + ΑΠΟΚΡΕΩ Judgement Sunday (Meatfare) Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Philoptochos Annual Tea | 24 | 25 | 26 Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm | 27 Choir practice 7:15 pm | 28 Joy - Hope 5:00 pm Basketball Clinic GOYA Basketball practice 6 pm Orthodox Christian Catechism 6:00 pm | |