

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
LONG BEACH, CA
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.*

MAY 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

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 Vackrinos

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

Bobbie Soupos - President

Karen Fic - 1st Vice President

Amelia Ladas - 2nd Vice President

Marilyne Coats - Correspond. Secretary

Lia Kakaris - Recording Secretary

Nikki Andrews - Treasurer

Mary Lofton - 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 Lioulias - 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



Come Celebrate Father's Day with us

Hosted By: The ASSUMPTION SENIORS

SUNDAY, June 15, 2014

FOLLOWING CHURCH

IN OUR CULTURAL CENTER

We are serving

Pastichio, Dolmades, Salad & Dessert

Adult Ticket: \$15.00

Children: \$5.00

All proceeds to benefit the Third Building



Happy
Mother's
Day

**Come Celebrate with us
Mother's Day**

Hosted By: The ASSUMPTION SENIORS

**SUNDAY MAY 11, 2014
FOLLOWING CHURCH
IN OUR CULTURAL
CENTER**

**We will be serving Roasted Chicken
with rice & vegetable,
Dolmades, Salad
and Desert**

Adults: \$15 Children: \$5

**All proceeds to benefit the
Third Building**

"And he said to them, do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him."

Mark 16:6

Dearly Beloved,

We have reached the goal of our Lenten and Holy Week journey. Today we approach the tomb of our Lord and Savior and, like the women in the Gospel, we find it empty. Only an angel is present, a messenger of God, telling us: "**He is not here. He has risen.**" This is a simple message, a few words, yet one that not only transformed the disciples, but transformed the world.

The Jesus Christ Who was born in Bethlehem of Mary, had lived among his people, taught them with great authority, healed their ailments, forgave their sins so that they would experience the love of God the Father, and yet was rejected by these same people and suffered a most horrible death on the cross and buried in a borrowed tomb had risen from the dead. As St. Gregory the Theologian states so profoundly, "*We needed an incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him that we might be cleansed. We rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him. We were glorified with Him because we rose again with Him.*" (St. Gregory the Theologian, Easter Oration)

Our proclamation of the resurrected Christ is the core of our Christian Orthodox Faith. As St. Paul said to the Corinthians, "*If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.*" (1 Corinthians 15:14). Every tenet of Orthodox Christianity must revert back to our faith in Jesus Christ and his triumph over death, from our understanding of God as Trinity and Jesus as the Son of God to our understanding of the Church and how we are to live as Christians today. All these and more begin in the experience and witness of the disciples of the Risen Lord. This is the apostolic faith we maintain and proclaim.

Proclaiming Christ is at the heart of our Church and the life of our community. Everything we do as a Church must reflect Jesus Christ, His life, His teachings, His care for humanity, and His death and resurrection. Our communal and personal behavior must be consistent with our words and claims to be followers of Christ. Our liturgical life is focused on Christ. Our educational and philanthropic life must reflect Christ. Our outreach and evangelism must proclaim Christ.

As St. Peter wrote so many centuries ago to Christians who did not know Jesus as Peter knew him, *“Without having seen him you love him; though you do not now see him you believe in him and rejoice with unutterable and exalted joy.”* (1 Peter 1:8). And yet we have seen Christ's Resurrection. We hear the Good News and we are there at the empty tomb. We have become witnesses of the Risen Christ and have put our trust in Him and His teaching.

And for this reason, our Paschal season is filled with baptismal references, reminding us of the commitment we made to Christ at our own baptism. The candles we hold at Pascha and for the next forty days are the same candles that were held at our baptism. Then and now, we made a commitment to following and proclaiming the light of Christ in a world filled with darkness. This is why St. Paul could tell the Christians in Ephesus, *“Now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light.”* (Ephesians 5:8).

We proclaim the Resurrection of Christ in the safety of our country. Our Church lives in freedom. But for countless Orthodox Christians in the world, raising their Paschal candles, proclaiming their faith in Jesus Christ and participating in the life of the Church- indeed, even just attending – is filled with risk and mortal danger. These are today's martyrs, holding up the light of their faith in places that seek to extinguish it. These are the new saints, witnesses for their faith, willing to accept their fate, while still striving for peace and understanding with those who do not believe. In these days of celebration, remember your brothers and sisters who live under these conditions. Pray for them as St. Paul prayed, *“Be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love.”* (1 Corinthians 16:13).

And so when you gather with family and friends, share your faith as well as your hospitality. Share the joy that the Good News of the Resurrection brings to the world and cry out to all, without fear or hesitation:

Christ Is Risen! Truly He Is Risen!

With Love in Our Resurrected Lord,
+ G E R A S I M O S
Metropolitan of San Francisco

Russos Emmanuel
Salsman Mel & Andria
Santamarina Jose & Ronnea
Sharkoff James & Katherine
Shill Peter & Ami
Shweiri Cathy & George
Simitian Richard & Anna
Siouris Chris & Panayota
Sirigos George & Eliodora
Skandalakis Melia
Skourtas Tony & Angelique
Smyrniotis Alexandra
Smyrniotis Chris & Mary
Sotiriou Dimitrios
Sotiriou Panagiotis & Vasiliki
Soultanakis Paul & Trudith
Soupos Tom & Barbara
Spiropoulos James & Marina
Stapakis Olympia
Stathis Robert & Josefa
Stavros Andy & Amber
Stavros Bill & Maria
Stavros George & Donna
Stavros Ted & Olga
Stergiou Eleni
Stevenson Gus & Leona
Sullos James & Vickie
Syrengelas Andreas & Evdoxia
Syrengelas Dino & Dora
Syrengelas Soteria
Syrengelas Toulia
Syrengelas Vasilis & Maria
Talaganis Ernest
Tavlarides Angelo & Mary
Teodosiadis Romilos & Melpomeni
Tener Theresa
Terzis Con/nos Suzanna
Thermos Jerry & Elli
Thibault Irene
Toulios Spyros & Helen
Toumasis Jerry & Koula
Trigonis Tula
Trikounakis Tony & Irma
Tsalikis Maria
Tsamous Peter & Helen
Tsimerekis Nikos & Anna
Vackrinos Catherine
Valaskantjis Nikiforos & Gerogia
Vardakis Alex
Varzak Darlene
Vasilomanolakis Francine
Vasilomanolakis Dr. Mike & Niki

Vassiliades John
Vlachos Dino & Helen
Vlahakis Mary
Watkins Evangelia
Woo-Sam Maria
Yakos John & Flora
Zambos Angie
Zamvakellis Nick & Alison
Zarifes Angie
Zimmerman Roseann
Zoolakis Anthony & Kari

Alex Helen	Dimou Leonidas	Kostallas Tony & Cathy
Alexiou Archimides	Dimou Nick	Koulos Peter & Emily
Alexiou Demi	Dogris Alex & Peggy	Kourtis Costa & Cecilia
Alexopoulos Andrew	Dolas Chris	Krebenios Anastasia
Alexopoulos Christine	Dolas Jim & Camille	Ladas Amelia
Alexopoulos Dimitrios & Maria	Dolas John & Theodora	Ladas Charlie & Patty
Alexopoulos Elias	Dolas Peter	Lafkas Peter & Ada
Alvertos Yianni & Georgia	Donlou Gordon & Maria	Liarakos George & Dezi
Amarantos Harriet	Dukelis Evangelia	Liarakos John & Tesi
Andrikos Ioannis & Argyro	Edwards Nicholas & Pamela	Lofton Max & Mary
Antoniou Konstantinos & Maria	Eleopoulos Jimmy & Leigh	Loizdes George & Rodou
Apostle Helen	Etchepare Anna	Lopez Jeff & Georgia
Armstrong Randy & Janet	Exacoustos Stella	Lovejoy Jeremy & Nectaria
Bacol Pete & Rea	Falley Zoe	Manos Dr. Andy & Pam
Bahos Kanella	Fattaleh Raja	Mantikas Nick & Katherine
Bastas Nikolaos & Kathy	Fattaleh Saba & Diana	Marangopoulos Jake & Tammy
Batshoun Emil & Matoula	Fenn Brad & Anna	Markouizos Markella
Batshoun Sofie	Fiamengo Alexandria	Matty David & Barbara
Beckas Spiro & Eleni	Fic Karen	Mavrovitis Michail & Monica
Benetatos Pinio	Flynn Matthew	Medenas Ted & Fotoula
Berovinos Antonios & Bonnie	Foutris Gus & Christine	Mentas Ann
Berovinos Michael & Kimberly	Frousakis Gus & Vickie	Mentas James & Patricia
Bettios Christos & Lorraine	Futris William & Mary	Michel David & Vasiliiki
Bouras Kathy	Gabriel Sam & Kathy	Milonas Dina
Bouras Peter	Galanis Jerry & Marian	Missios Basil & Eftihia
Boyce Maria	Georgakopoulos Mike & Maria	Monios Nick & Linda
Bozigian Linda	Georgedes Ekaterini	Montalbano Paul & Maria
Bratkic Jure & Demetra	Georges Louie & Penny	Morgan Valerie
Breres Zena	Georgiadou Vicki	Nakai Keiichi & Saki
Brilakis Gus & Nicki	Georgoulis George & Anna	Nanopoulos Chris & Yota
Bussa Tom & Maria	Ghilarducci Walt & Laura	Nezis Alexander & Alice
Chelekis Louis & Vickie	Gurrola Raymond & Mary	Papacalos George & Lucia
Choullis Manolis & Sotiria	Hadjimarkos Nicholas & Stemma	Papadakis Lilian & Andriana
Christidis George & Melina	Hanches Roll Fotini	Papadopoulos Evangelos & Loraine
Colazas Xenophon & Mila	Hanson Richard	Papakoulos Angie
Contos Angeliki	Hennig Vickie	Papas Tasos & Georgia
Cook Jeff & Susan (Boltinghouse)	Haririan nAlka & Kristopher Kim	Pappas Victor & Christina
Cornwell Caryle & Demetra	Jordanides Timothy & Ria	Pappas Mark & Shari
Coromelas Acrivi	Kades Clio	Paralapanides Charles & Elenie
Cozakos Nick	Kades Kelly	Pass Gus & Toula
Critides Anastasios & Shawnee	Kakaris Telis & Lia	Paulos Todd & Cindy
Dalkos John & Stavroula	Kallins George & Bettine	Paulos Nicholas
Dalkos Chris & Roula	Kallins James & Virginia	Paulos Mary
Demopulos Michel & Patricia	Kanakis Fr. Christos & Pres. Jessica	Paxos Joanne
Demos George & Vickie	Karapoulios Evangelos & Eleni	Philips Crystal
Demos Eleni	Karidakis George & Diane	Platis Jim & Kay
Deneff Peter & Diane	Karidakis Jim	Platis Sam & Laura
Deneff Alkisti	Karidakis Nick	Pliaconis Alexander & Nicole
Deralas Dean	Karthas Nicholas	Polychrones Jerry & Mary
Diacoumacos Marya	Kastanas Bill & Paris	Polychrones Speros & Dora
Dimas Michael & Maria	Katsikakis Maria	Roubanis Savvas & Jody
Dimitropoulos Thanasi & Eleni	Konstantinidis Byron & Katie	Russos Asimina
	Kontokanis Dimitris & Maria	

**Greetings Panagia Parishioners!
Christos Anesti!**

What a very wonderful and very spiritual uplifting Holy Week and beautiful Pascha our Assumption Parish experienced this year! Fr. Christos a very special thank you for making this year's Holy Week and Pascha a very spiritual fulfilling and rewarding experience. Thanks to all of you, our fellow Assumption parishioner's for coming and fulfilling the Orthodox spiritual renewal! Our Assumption Parish is truly blessed!

Wow – Have you seen the newly repaired and painted Dome! If you missed it or have not seen it, make sure you take a look next time. Thanks to our Jimmy Eleopoulos and Tasos Papas of our Maintenance Committee for organizing and making the dome repair and painting a great success!

Thanks to Kathy Condaras and the entire Greek School Ministry for hosting the Greek School “Independence Day” luncheon and presenting the beautiful Greek Poems and Stories from our children on Sunday, April 6th.

Thanks to all that participated with the Sunday School Ministry in folding of the Palm Crosses at the Family Night Holy Week Retreat!

Thanks to the Greek Dance Ministry for hosting a very delicious Palm Sunday Luncheon on Sunday, April 13th.

As we complete April, the month of May brings many exciting events. Your support to the following events is greatly appreciated and you will thoroughly enjoy each of them!

- ALL Assumption God Children and God Parents, please mark your calendar to come to church for **God Parent's Sunday** on May 4th.
 - Please come out, give your support and treat your mother to the Senior Citizen's annual Mother's Day Luncheon on **Mother's Day**, May 11th!
 - **GOYA Basketball Finals** - Make sure you all come out and support our GOYA players at this year's GOYA Basketball Final games at our Assumption Center Gymnasium on Saturday, May 17th! Go Assumption!
 - **GOYA Basketball Awards & Reception Night** - Come out and support our GOYA Basketball Players on Sunday, May 18th!
 - **AHEPA Memorial Day** - All AHEPANs, come out and support AHEPA Memorial Day on Sunday, May 18th!
- Sunday School Ministry Graduation** – Sunday, May 25th. As the school year comes to a close, we wish the best to all of our students a very happy and safe graduation from Sunday School Ministry, Greek School Ministry, and elementary, middle school, high school and college graduates!

Have you pledged yet? Please do!

Have you sent in your Pledge card yet? As you know, our Panagia depends on your participation to help make our parish grow. Please take the time to fill out your card, so, we can continue to plan and reach our financial obligations. You can contact Voula (562) 494-8929 at the church's office if you have questions. We appreciate your participation.

Please look both in our Panagia Bulletin and our weekly Sunday Bulletins for other events!

Our Parish Council is here to serve you and our Panagia Parish. Please do not hesitate to call or ask any of your parish council members or me with any questions! We will provide you with the answers we know and get back to you with the answers we don't know.

Thanks for all of your continued support!
Chris Dolas, PC President

Christos Anesti!

Philoptochos

What a Beautiful Easter Season we had. WE are so blessed to have so many dedicated Parishioners, so many beautiful children, a Secretary who is efficient, a Priest who never stops and a caretaker who is always there when we need him. We have much to be Thankful for!

I want to give A BIG THANK YOU to all the ladies who baked the delicious pastries and breads for our Easter Holiday. WE do appreciate your efforts. Also; Thank-you to all the ladies who colored the eggs and wrapped them. God Bless your hands!

We were able to do visitations throughout the two weeks before Easter. All were happy to see us. Each person was given a plant to nurture, an Icon and an Easter card. I would like to do visitations more often. Would you care to join me? Do you know someone who would like a visitation? If so; just let myself or Voula know.

We have the Kids and Cancer event May 4th which I hope everyone will make an effort to attend. It's such a wonderful outreach, an outreach that only gets better with each passing year. Please support our cause. Help us send a child to camp! Help us put a smile on a little one's face! The cost is \$300 per child. Last year, because of you, we were able to send 35 children to camp.....those children ALL Thank You! .

If you are not a member of Philoptochos WE encourage all of you to become a member. Our Membership is UP this year and we are pleased, but there are still a few of you who have not yet joined and we want to encourage you to do so. WE need everyone! Philoptochos is a strong organization and accomplishes much more than most of us realize. I can't stress enough the importance of what WE as Philoptochos accomplish.

This year, more than any other year, we have had an unusual amount of requests for help. It's been a rugged year for many people. Let's not forget how fortunate we are to have our health, a job, food on the table and etc...There are many who do not have that good fortune. That is why we reach out to ALL of YOU to support our movement. We want to say Thank You to all of you who have so generously given in the past and who are still giving. WE truly appreciate your support.

Don't forget to stop by the sweets table. We still have sweets/breads for purchase. Also; if any of you would like to sponsor Coffee Hour we encourage you to do so. Let us know!

God Bless all of you,
Bobbie Soupos, President

ASSUMPTION STEWARDSHIP REPORT, MAY 2014 PANAGIA

“THANK YOU” TO OUR NEW STEWARDS (MAR 11 – APR 10)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Alex, Helen | Papadakis, Lilian & Andriana |
| Armstrong, Randy & Janet | Papakoulos, Angie |
| Batshoun, Emil & Matoula | Paralapanides, Charles & Elenie |
| Cook, Jeff & Susan (Boltinghouse) | Pass, Gus & Toula |
| Dimas, Michael & Maria | Platis, Sam & Laura |
| Eleopoulos, Jimmy & Leigh | Polychrones, Jerry & Mary |
| Georgedes, Ekaterini | Sotiriou, Dimitrios |
| Gurrola, Raymond and Mary | Stapakis, Olympia |
| Haririan, Alka & Kristopher Kim | Stavros, Bill & Maria |
| Kades, Clio | Syrengeles, Andreas & Evdoxia |
| Kades, Kelly | Syrengeles, Dino & Dora |
| Kallins, James & Virginia | Syrengeles, Toula |
| Karidakis, Jim | Teodosiadis, Romilos & Melpomeni |
| Karidakis, Nicholas | Trigonis, Tula T. |
| Kontokanis, Dimitris & Maria | Trikounakis, Tony & Irma |
| Lafkas, Peter & Ada | Tsamous, Peter & Helen |
| Mantikas, Nick & Katherine | Vardakis, Alex |
| Morgan, Valerie | Yakos, John & Flora |
| Nanopoulos, Chris & Panayota | Zamvakellis, Nick & Alison |

STEWARDSHIP STATISTICS AS OF 4/10/2014

- Number of Pledged Families in 2014 **207**
- Number of Unpledged Families (from 2013) **126**
- Amount Pledged in 2014 **\$186,918**
- Total Amount Received 1/1/14 thru of 4/10/14 **\$94,724**
- Unpaid Pledged Amount (as of 4/10/14) **\$92,194**
- Stewardship Income Required to Meet Assumption 2014 Budget (\$225,000) **\$130,276**

OUR STEWARDSHIP CHALLENGE

In 2013 the total cost to maintain Assumption Church was **\$43,073** per month, **\$1,416** per day! If you have not pledged, please do so soon. If you have pledged in 2014, Thank You, and please meet your pledge as promised.

Your Assumption Stewardship Ministry Team

Saint Sophia Philoptochos Debutante Presentation ball 2015

Plans are underway for the Saint Sophia Philoptochos Debutante Presentation Ball will be held on Sunday, January 18, 2015 at the Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire Hotel. Interested young ladies who will be high school juniors and older should contact the Presentation Ball Chair, Katrina Beers at 714-936-7900 or at the4beers@sbcglobal.net. An information meeting will be held at the Saint Sophia Cathedral Huffington Center on Sunday, May 18, 2014 at 12:30 pm.



Agape Celebration of Love Reception
to benefit

Kids 'n' Cancer

Sunday, May 4, 2014 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Big Canyon Country Club

One Big Canyon Drive

Newport Beach, California

\$75 per person

For more information, please contact:

Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos
Office

at 415-431-2600 or

office@sphiloptochos.org

May Prosforo

Prosforo for the month of May is donated by Peggy Dogris. Thank you. If you would like to donate our Sunday prosforo please call the church office.

Announcements

WITH SYMPATHY

To Vickie Hennig and family for the loss of her husband Fred on 4/7/14. May his memory be eternal.

To Patrick Woo-Sam and family for the loss of his wife Maria on 4/8/14. May her memory be eternal.

Voula, our church secretary will be out of the office from May 5 to June 10 visiting her family in Greece after 15 years. If you need assistance please contact Father Christo.

Philoptochos Cook Book

Philoptochos ladies are looking for new recipes to update their current cook book. You will be honored by inclusion of your recipe(s) in the updated version along with your by-line. Please give your recipe(s) to any Philoptochos lady.

Greek School

Greek school is in full swing, we just completed our Greek School Independence Day Celebration. The students recited poems and performed in a play. Their performance was excellent. All the teachers are so proud of their accomplishments. Keep up the good work. Our last day of Greek school and graduation will be held on Wednesday, June 4th in our church hall.

Thank you,
Kathryn Condaras, Principal

Greek Column by Voula Michail

Η Πρωτομαγιά των λουλουδιών και το πρωτομαγιάτικο στεφάνι

Γνωστός στους διάφορους πολιτισμούς με διαφορετικά ονόματα, ο Μάιος ονομάστηκε έτσι από τη ρωμαϊκή θεότητα Maja (Μάγια) της οποίας το όνομα προήλθε με τη σειρά του από την ελληνική λέξη Μαία, τροφός και μητέρα. Η Μάγια ταυτίστηκε και με την Ατλαντίδα νύμφη Μαία, μητέρα του Ερμή στον οποίο και αφιερώθηκε ο μήνας. Σύμφωνα με τον τρόπο διαίρεσης του χρόνου των αρχαίων Ελλήνων, ο Μάιος αντιστοιχούσε σε μέρος του Μουνιχιώνα και του Θαρρηλιώνα που σημαίνει το μήνα που ο ήλιος καίει, θερμαίνει τη γη. Ήδη από τους Ρωμαίους, η αρχή του μήνα σηματοδοτούνταν από τον εορτασμό της Αγαθής Θεάς ενώ σε όλη τη διάρκειά του τελούνταν γιορτές συνδεδεμένες με την ευφορία των αγρών.

Η φυσιογνωμία του Μαΐου στη λαϊκή αντίληψη είναι δίσχημη: συνυπάρχει σ αυτήν το καλό και το κακό, η αναγέννηση και ο θάνατος. Όλες αυτές οι ιδιότητες συγκλίνουν και συγκεντρώνονται στην πρώτη του μέρα, την Πρωτομαγιά. Ο εθιμικός εορτασμός της ως της τελικής νίκης του καλοκαιριού κατά του χειμώνα και της κατσίχουσας της ζωής επί του θανάτου έχει μακρότατη παράδοση με ρίζες που ανάγονται σε προχριστιανικές αγροτικές λατρευτικές τελετές που αποσκοπούσαν στη γονιμότητα των αγρών και, κατ επέκταση, και των ζώων και των ανθρώπων.

Οι αρχαίοι Έλληνες, ως φλογεροί φυσιολάτρεις, γιόρταζαν το άνοιγμα των λουλουδιών και το φτάσιμο της άνοιξης. Από τα αρχαιότερα χρόνια του πολιτισμού τους, που έφθασε στην Ελλάδα από τη Θράκη το ρόδο, μαζί με τις Ορφικές διδασκαλίες, το άνθος αυτό έγινε σύμβολο και υμνήθηκε ως η νύμφη των ανθέων.

Η γιορτή, όμως, της άνοιξης, η αρχαία Πρωτομαγιά, πήρε σιγά-σιγά κι επίσημη μορφή. Από τις παλαιότερες γιορτές, δημιουργήθηκαν τα Ανθεστήρια, η γιορτή των λουλουδιών. Αυτή ήταν η πρώτη επίσημη γιορτή ανθέων των Ελλήνων. Ιδρύθηκε πρώτα στην Αθήνα, όπου με μεγαλοπρέπεια βάζιζαν προς τα ιερά πομπές με κανηφόρες, που έφερναν άνθη. Έπειτα τα Ανθεστήρια διαδόθηκαν και σ άλλες πόλεις της Ελλάδος και πήραν πανελλήνια μορφή.

Στα Ανθεστήρια της Ελλάδας «ανασταίνονταν» ο... σκοτωμένος Ευάνθης θεός, επίθετο του Διόνυσου, που από το χυμένο αίμα του φύτρωσε, σύμφωνα με το μύθο, η άμπελος. Δρώνομο της Πρωτομαγιάς στην Ελλάδα κατά τα νεότερα χρόνια ήταν η ανάσταση του Μαγιάτου. Ένας έφηβος εμιμείτο στα ξέφωτα του δάσους τον πεθαμένο, τάχατες, Διόνυσο. Κοπέλες τον στόλιζαν με άνθη και του τραγουδούσαν τον «κομμό, το θρήνο και τον οδυρμό, μέχρι που να «αναστηθεί» και μαζί με αυτόν όλη η φύση.

Το πρωτομαγιάτικο στεφάνι

Το πρωτομαγιάτικο στεφάνι είναι, σχεδόν, το μοναδικό έθιμο που εξακολουθεί να μας συνδέει με την παραδοσιακή Πρωτομαγιά, μια γιορτή της άνοιξης και της φύσης με πανάρχαιες ρίζες, πλούσια σε εκδηλώσεις σε παλαιότερες εποχές. Στις μέρες μας η Πρωτομαγιά με το μάζεμα των λουλουδιών για το πρωτομαγιάτικο στεφάνι, ενισχύει τις σχέσεις του ανθρώπου με τη φύση, από την οποία οι περισσότεροι έχουμε απομακρυνθεί, ζώντας στις πόλεις.

In the year of the Lord - May 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 GOYA Basketball practice 6 pm	3
4 + Των Μυροφόρων Sunday of the Myrrh Bearers Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Godparent Sunday	5	6	7 Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	8	9 GOYA Basketball practice 6 pm	10
11 + Του Παραλύτου Sunday of the Paralytic Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Seniors: Mother's Day Luncheon	12	13	14 Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	15	16 GOYA Basketball practice 6 pm	17 GOYA Basketball Finals
18 + Της Σαμαρειτιδος Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00am Goya: Award & Recognition Night	19	20 Senior Christians Potluck 11:30 am P. C. Meeting 7 pm	21 + Κων/νου & Ελένης St. Constantine & Helen Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Greek School 5:30 pm - 7 pm	22	23	24
25 + Του Τυφλού Sunday of the Blind Man Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am Sunday School Graduation	OFFICE CLOSED (Memorial Day)	27	28 Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	29 + Της Αναλήψεως Holy Ascension Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 10 am	30	31 GOYA Volleyball Tournament in Pasadena