

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 PANAGIA

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.*



**NOVEMBER & DECEMBER
2017**

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

frchristos@assumptionlb.org

Voula Michail-Kitsios, Executive Admin. Assistant

Jorge Rivera, Custodian

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jimmy Eleopoulos, President

Nick Monios, Vice President

Jerry Polychrones, Recording Secretary

Tasos Papas, Responding Secretary

Angelo Karapoulios, Treasurer

Members

Spiros Beckas, George Demos, Chris Dolas,
George Karidakis, Athena Mantas, Ajit Shahani,
Anthony Zoolakis, Stelios Zoumberakis

AHEPA

Tasos Papas - President

Bookstore

Zoe Falley - Administrator

Bulletin Coordinator

Voula Michail - Kitsios

Choir

Jerry McMillan - Director

Costa Kourtis - Advisor

Church School

Olivia Varonos

Daughters of Penelope

Sofie Batshoun

Family Night

Sam Platis

GOYA

Eleni Dalkos & Christina Gillotti - Advisors

Greek Cultural Arts and Dance

Stacie Zoumberakis - President

Aristi Anagnos - Vice President

Greek School

Tasia Triantos - Principal

Dina Triantos - President

Hope/Joy/VBS

Yota Batsaras - Advisor

Panagia's Little Lambs

Elizabeth Syrengelas

PHILOPTOCHOS

Karen Fic - President

Lia Kakaris - 1st Vice President

Mary Lofton - 2nd Vice President

Stephanie Moreno - Secretary

Denise Manos - Corres. Secretary

Kathy Bastas - Treasurer

Bobbie Soupos - Advisor.

Senior Christians

Nick Monios - President

Trisagio Ministry

Max & Mary Lofton, Kathy Bastas

Vickie Hennig, Yiota Beckas, Zoe Falley

Web Site

David Derks

Welcome Ministry

Kathy Bastas (Chair), Mary Lofton

Camille Dolas, Kay Platis,

Young Adults

YoungAdultsLB@gmail.com

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Confidential Stewardship Commitment Card

Family Last Name: _____ Home Phone: _____

Street Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Husband (or Individual over 18)

Wife (or Individual over 18)

Children & Birthdate

Name: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Email: _____

Occupation: _____

In gratitude of God's Blessings I/we commit the following amount of \$ _____ for the year of 20 _____

Monthly (12 Payments a Year) Quarterly (4 Payments a Year) Semiannually (2 Payments a Year) Annually

Please check the following:

1. Check: Mail/In person

2. Credit Card/ Debit Card:

Name as it appears on card: _____

Credit/Debit Card Type: _____ Card Number: _____

CVV (3 digit code on back) _____ Expiration Date: _____ Signature for authorization: _____

ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Because of the success of the annual Christmas card, the project will continue with all the proceeds going to the Assumption Church.

Please support this effort by entering your family's name in the card for a donation of \$25 per line. The card will be mailed to all the families in the community's mailing list. This is an opportunity to wish your fellow parishioners blessings for the Holidays.

Please visit the special table after Sunday services and sign up so that your family's name will appear with all the others on this year's Christmas Card. We will be outside the Betty Reckas Hall on the Sundays of November 26, December 3, and December 10.

You may also fill out the form below and send it by mail to the:

Assumption Greek Orthodox Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Attn: Christmas Card Fund
5761 E Colorado Street, Long Beach, CA 90814

**Please make your checks payable to the
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
DEADLINE IS SUNDAY DECEMBER 10**

ASSUMPTION COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Proceeds go to the Assumption Church
Minimum Donation: \$25 per line

Your name, as you wish it to appear on the card – Please print:

Line 1: _____

Line 2: _____

Tel# _____

Donation per line (circle one): \$25 \$50 Other: \$ _____

Payment: Check # _____ Cash _____ Total Amount \$ _____



Please Join Us for the Baptism of

Panagiotis

Saturday, November 25, 2017

3:00 p.m.

at the

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Greek Orthodox Church

5761 E Colorado Street

Long Beach, California 90814

Reception to follow

Parents: Fr. Christos & Presvytera Jessica Kanakis

Godparents: Nicholas Demopoulos

&

Markella Tsatsaronis

Please RSVP to 562.494.8929 by November 11th

Assumption Seniors

Bus Trip to Covina for the Feast Day of SAINT NEKTARIOS



Hierarchical Divine Liturgy and Lunch Reception

Thursday, November 9th , 2017

Bus leaves from Assumption at **8:00 a.m.** and returns at **3:00 p.m.**

\$15 per person.

Please call the church office at 562-494-8929 to reserve your seat.

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Kountakis Eugenia | Pappas Victor & Christina | Stavros Louis & Mary | Zoolakis Anthony & Kari |
| Kouris Gregory & Patricia | Parlapanides Charles & Elenie | Stavros Ted | Zorzy Josephine |
| Kourtis Costa & Cecilia | Parros Bessie | Stavros Theodoros & Olga | Zoumberakis John |
| Kral Michael & Lisa | Patsios Spiros & Melva | Stavros Tom | Zoumberakis Stelios & |
| Kyriakos Spiros & Lainie | Paulos Mary | Stavros Yiota | Stacie |
| Ladas Charlie & Patty | Paulos Nicholas | Stevenson Gus & Leona | |
| Lambros Mary | Paulos Todd & Cindy | Sullos James & Vickie | |
| Liakos Thomas & Emily | Pelonis Petros & Agatha | Sverkos Dennis & Holly | |
| Liarakos George & Dezi | Phillips Crystal | Syregelas A. Kon/nos | |
| Liarakos John & Tessy | Photakis Nicholas & Lorraine | Syregelas Andreas & Niky | |
| Liarakos Voula | Platis Jim & Kay | Syregelas Andy & Evdoxia | |
| Lilis Tina | Politis Spiros & Assal | Syregelas Bill & Susan | |
| Lofton Max & Mary | Polychrones Jerry & Marianna | Syregelas Dino & Dora | |
| Loizides Goerge & Rodoula | Polychrones Speros & Theodora | Syregelas George & Athanasia | |
| Lovejoy Jeremy & Nectaria | Poulis Sofia | Syregelas Michael & Elizabeth | |
| Makas Diane | Ragias Pete & Maria | Syregelas Soteria | |
| Mangoutas John & Barbara | Raptis Maria | Syregelas Toula | |
| Manolas Georgia | Reed Richard & Kyriaki | Taireh Fadi & Elizabeth | |
| Manos Denise | Rembouskos Panayiotis & Valerie | Talaganis Ernest | |
| Manos Dr. Andy & Pamela | Richards Dean & Dorothy | Talaganis John & Kathleen | |
| Mantikas Nick & Katherine | Richmond Dan & Doris | Talaganis Nick & Amy | |
| Marentis Victoria | Roubanis Savvas & Jody | Tavlarides Angelo & Mary | |
| Marinow Atanas | Roumeliotis George & Pamela | Teodosiadis Romilos & Melpomeni | |
| Markouizos George & Argyro | Rous William & Tianna | Terzis Con/nos & Suzanna | |
| Markouizos Karolos & Georgia | Russos Asimina | Thermos Jerry & Elli | |
| Markouizos Markella | Russos Manolis | Thibault Irene | |
| Markouizos Nektarios & Lisa | Salsman Mel & Andria | Thomas Susan | |
| Matinas Christopher & Catherine | Santamarina Jose & Ronnea | Ticknor Chris & Crystal | |
| Matty Dave & Barbara | Seeger Clay & Susan | Toulios Spyros & Eleni | |
| McMillan James & Angela | Sehremelis Andy & Leslie | Toumasis Kyriaky | |
| Megas Eutihia | Shahani Ajit & Georgiadou Vicki | Triantos Dina & Tasia | |
| Mentas Ann | Sharkoff Dr. Donald & Anna | Tsakoumakis Stan & Debora | |
| Mentas James & Patricia | Sharkoff Dr. James & Katherine | Tsalikis Maria | |
| Michel David & Vasiliki | Shweiri Cathy & George | Tsamous Peter & Helen | |
| Michel Erik & Jennifer | Shweiri Nicole | Tsimerekis Anna | |
| Milonas Dina | Silva Robert & Nicolette | Tsimerekis Christos & Christina | |
| Mitchell Pete | Simitian Richard & Anna | Vackrinis Catherine | |
| Mitchell Peter III | Siouris Chris & Panayota | Vagelatos John | |
| Monios Nick & Linda | Siouris Faith | Valaskantjis Nikiforos & Georgia | |
| Montalbano Paul & Maria | Sirigos George & Eliodora | Vargo Douglas & Elefteria | |
| Mor Luciano & Maria | Skourtas Tony & Angeliqne | Varonos Alex & Gonzo | |
| Moreno Russ & Stephanie | Smyrniotis Christos & Mary | Varzak Darlene | |
| Morgan Valerie | Sotiriou Dimitrios & Christina | Vasilomanolakis Dr. Mike & Niki | |
| Nakai Keiichi & Saki | Sotiriou Elias | Vassiliades John | |
| Nanopoulos Chris & Yota | Sotiriou Panagiotis & Vasiliki | Vlachos Dino & Helen | |
| Nezis Elene | Soultanakis Trudie | Vlachos Michael & Jessa | |
| Palencia Emersonn | Soupos Tom & Bobbie | Vlahakis Kathy | |
| Papacalos George & Lucia | Spiropoulos James & Marina | Vorias Maria | |
| Papadakis Lillian & Andrianna | Spiropoulos Troy & Gina | Vorris Athanasios & Niki | |
| Papadakis Michael & Janel | Spirtos Dimitri & Judith | Watkins Evangelia | |
| Papadakis Nick & Alexandra | Stapakis Olympia | Wyatt Richard & Stefanie | |
| Papadopoulos Evangelos & Lorraine | Stapakis Steve & Joanne | Xeros Nicholas & Anna | |
| Papakoulos Angie | Stathis Robert & Josefa | Zambos Angie | |
| Papas Tasos & Georgia | Stavros Andy & Amber | Zambos John | |
| Pappas Dino & Catherine | Stavros Bill & Maria | Zamvakellis Nick & Alison | |
| Pappas Mark & Shari | Stavros George & Donna | Zarifes Angie | |

Ala Eli
 Ala George
 Ala Lisa
 Alex Helen
 Alexiou Demi
 Alexopoulos Andrew
 Alexopoulos Christina
 Alexopoulos Dimitrios & Maria
 Alvertos Ioannis & Georgia
 Amarantos Harriet
 Andrews Dr. Jim & Nikki
 Andrikos Ioannis & Argyro
 Andros Nick
 Apostle Helen
 Argeris John & Vasiliki
 Argyros Dionisios & Irini
 Argyros Phillip & Amy
 Armstrong Randy & Janet
 Ashley James & Stella
 Awad John & Litsa
 Bacol Penny
 Bacol Pete & Ria
 Bacol Sina
 Bahos Kanella
 Balas Louis & Toula
 Bastas Niko & Kathy
 Bateh Eric & Nancy
 Batshoun Emil & Toula
 Batshoun Sofia
 Beckas Spiro & Eleni
 Beckas Yiota
 Bennett John & Christy
 Berdanis John
 Berovinos Michael & Kimberly
 Berovinos Tony & Bonnie
 Bisbikis Toula & Argyroula
 Bogris Anastasios & Lindsey
 Boosalis Afrodite
 Boosalis Koumisis
 Bouras Peter
 Boyce Maria
 Bratkic Jure & Demetra
 Breres Zena
 Brillakis Gus & Nicki
 Brogoliis Nick
 Brogoliis Steve & Janne
 Brooks Harriet
 Bussa Tom & Maria
 Camaras Dean & Nicole
 Camaras Tykye & Elaine
 Cardenas Roberto & Alexia
 Castritis Demetrios
 Celentano John & Olga
 Chelekis Louis & Vicki

Chenes Charles
 Chioles Jim & Effie
 Choullis Manolis & Sotiria
 Christou Nicholas
 Chrysanthis Alex & Vaso
 Chrysanthis Alexandra
 Chrysochoidis Kostas & Ramona
 Clair Robert & Nicky
 Coats Marilyne
 Colazas Xenophon & Mila
 Condaras Nicholas & Katerina
 Contos Angeliki
 Cook Jeff & Susan
 Cornwell Caryle & Demetra
 Coroneus John & Xanthipe
 Coster Steve & Tonya
 Cottgias Manuel
 Critides Byron & Shawnee
 Currier Travis
 Cyprus Brandon
 Cyprus Brett & Jane
 Cyprus Kayla
 Dalkos Chris & Roula
 Dalkos John & Stavroula
 Demopulos Michael & Patricia
 Deneff Alkisti
 Deneff Anthony
 Deneff Peter & Diane
 Deralas Dean
 Desalernos Stephen & Julia
 Desalernos Stephen & Stefanie
 Diamond Eleni
 Dimas Michael & Maria
 Dimou Nikolas Leonidas & Judith
 Dogris Alex & Peggy
 Dolas Chris
 Dolas James & Angela
 Dolas John & Theodora
 Dolas Peter
 Dollas Jim & Camille
 Donlou Gordon & Maria
 Edwards Nickolas & Pamela
 Elder Josh & Katrina Armogida
 Eleftheriou Themios & Nina
 Etchepare Anna
 Exacoustos Stella
 Falley Zoe
 Fattaleh Raja
 Fenn Brad & Anna
 Fic Karen
 Fillippis George & Christina
 Fourtounis Peter & Joanna
 Foutris Constantine & Christine
 Foutris John & Stefanie

Francis Timotheus & Georgi
 Frousakis Gus & Vicky
 Futris William & Mary
 Gabriel Sam & Kathy
 Galanis Gerry & Marian
 Georgedes Katy
 Georges Louie & Penny
 Georgoulis George & Anna
 Ghatikar Rachel
 Ghillarducci Walt & Laura
 Giannoulis Anastasia
 Gossen Ryan & Jennifer
 Gurrola Raymond & Mary
 Hadjimarkos Nick & Stemma
 Haftoglou Dimitris & Maria
 Hallock Rod & Shirley
 Hanches Fotini
 Hanson Chris & Dusty
 Hardaway Herman & Pamela
 Haririan Alka
 Hatzidakis Yiannis & Christina
 Hatziris Anna & Frabgoulis
 Hatzis Serafim
 Hennig Vickie
 Hernandez Richard & Matilda
 Herron Craig & Diana
 Hoatua Pat & Evi
 Hourigan Joseph & Nickie
 Jordanides Dennis & Giselle
 Jordanides Timothy & Ria
 Jovicic Goran & Alexandria
 Kades Clio
 Kades Kelly
 Kakaris Telis & Lia
 Kallins George & Bettina
 Kanakis Panagiotis & Evangelia
 Kanavos Peter & Tia
 Karahalios Carole
 Karahalios George & Angie
 Karapoulios Angelo & Eleni
 Karapoulios Greg
 Karapoulios Tia
 Karmiris Christopher & Christina
 Karthas Nicholas
 Kastanas Bill & Paris
 Kiouis Spiro & Katerina
 Konstantinidis Byron & Kaite
 Kontes Nick & Christina
 Kontokanis Dimitrios & Maria
 Kootsikis Coula
 Korakis Michael
 Koromelas John & Tina
 Kostallas Anthony & Cathy
 Koulos Peter & Emily

October was a very busy month.

Our Lovely Ladies of Philoptochos continued through the month of October in fund raising to find a cure for breast cancer. Thank you to all those who joined in the race...special Thank You to Denise Manos and Kathy Bastas for the display in raising breast cancer awareness.

Thank you all who donated to our Philoptochos Rummage sale and made it a huge success. Our Philoptochos ladies did a fantastic job in running the show. Zoe Falley was amazing in organizing the sale. All proceeds will be used to continue our philanthropic efforts here in Long Beach across the country and around the world.

Our eight of our Philoptochos board members were able to attend the Fall Spiritual Conference at St. Nicholas Ranch with filled with news and guest speakers from Metropolis and National Philoptochos. We were also blessed to be able to attend Vespers at The Monastery of the Theotokos of the Life-Giving Spring.

Our first general meeting on the ecclesiastical year was held on October 22nd with Spiros Kyriakos as guest speaker. Spiros spoke on Autism. Thank you for giving us all so much information.

Once again, our entire church will be collecting food for our Annual Thanksgiving Food drive. Please see the flyer in this month's Panagia and stop at the Philoptochos table in the foyer of the church hall to drop off your donation. Remember our goal is to feed 150 families and we can only do this with your help.

On November 5th Philoptochos will remember all those Philoptochos sisters who are no longer with us. We will also remember our Patron Saints Cosmas and Damianos. Please join us that day.

Fall is in the air and so are the aromas of the Harvest Bake Sale! This will take place on November 12th. The table will be filled with delights of the season. Please plan on supporting Philoptochos.

On Saturday November 18th Light the Path will once again bring the sounds of Christmas to Long Beach. We are proud to host this Metropolis event in Southern California for the 3rd time. The Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos is the only Metropolis that supports their future priests and students at HC/HC with this event. Please make sure to mark your calendars for this event.

Be on the lookout for the Annual Christmas tree in the narthex for Trinity Youth Services. The tree will be filled with names and ages of 40 different foster children. Open your hearts and help these children have a Merry Christmas by taking a name and bringing a gift.

We will be hosting the Trinity Foster Homes Christmas Party on December 14th. If you are interested in participating please contact Matoula or Sofie Batshoun at 714-705-9314.

We will also have for the 2nd year a tree set up for our shut ins! Here we are asking for lap blankets, board games and warm socks that our Philoptochos ladies will take along with Philoptochos baked goods when we visit them during the holidays.

Bobbie Soupos will be chairing our annual Philoptochos Luncheon on Sunday December 10th in our church hall. Keep your eye out for a flyer with more details soon.

Thank you all who have supported Philoptochos with your membership. We take memberships throughout the entire year. If you are not a Philoptochos member and are interested in being a part of this dynamic movement please contact Lia Kakaris or any board member. She will be happy to bring you on board.

On behalf of Philoptochos, I would like to close with this wish:
 May the spirit of Christmas bring you peace, the gladness of Christmas give you hope, and the warmth of Christmas grant you love!

Your sister in Christ,
 Karen Fic, President



**PANAGIAS' ANNUAL
THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE
Sponsored by You!**

Goal: Thanksgiving meal for 150 families

To our Panagia Parishioners,

Thanksgiving is a day of giving thanks to God, enjoying good food, and above all, fellowship with family. Thanksgiving is the day that we reach out to those families who need our love and support to celebrate Thanksgiving with a warm and enjoyable meal.

As a community, we would like to reach out to 150 families this year. You can sponsor a family with a \$30.00 donation (made payable to Assumption Philoptochos) or bring in your non-perishable food items and frozen turkeys no later than **Sunday, November 19, 2017^h**

Representatives from *For the Child* will meet with our Sunday School children and pick up our donations for distribution to the families on Sunday, the 19th.

We can't stress enough how much your donation means to these families. Giving them an opportunity to have a Thanksgiving meal (like we are all so blessed to have) is priceless. We sincerely thank you and appreciate your continuous support!

On behalf of those who are receiving your action of kindness, Thank You!

A donation of \$30 and/or items needed:

Canned veggies, canned fruit, gravy, stuffing/dressing, cranberry sauce, instant potatoes, dinner rolls, cake & frosting mix, peanut butter, bread, cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, canned soup, dry pasta, uncooked rice/beans, and frozen turkey. (Please do not donate expired items.)

**For The Child, located in Long Beach builds healthy lives for children and families free of abuse, neglect and violence. www.forthethechild.org*

Mail checks to: Assumption Greek Church, 5761 E. Colorado Street, Long Beach, CA 90814, Attention: Philoptochos Additional information: contact Kathy Bastas at knbastas@aol.com

Announcements

BAPTISMS

9/9/17

Grayson Christopher Matinas

Proud Parents: Christopher & Catherine Matinas
Godparents: James & Jennifer Matinas
Congratulations

9/16/17

Zoe Maria Desalernos

Proud Parents: Stephen & Stefanie Desalernos
Godfather: James Ananias
Congratulations

9/16/17

Jonny Gerard Elder

Proud Parents: Katrina Armogida & Joshua Elder
Godmother: Toni Marie Koulos
Congratulations

9/16/17

Joshua Cass Elder

Godmother: Sofia Armogida
Congratulations

WITH SYMPATHY

To Harry Kiapos and family for the loss of his mother **Alexandra Kiapos** on 8/30/17.
May her memory be eternal.

To Tryfon Castritis and Flora Castritis Yakos and family for the loss of their father **Demetrios Castritis** on 9/22/17.
May his memory be eternal.

To Loraine Photakis and family for the loss of her husband Nicholas Photakis on 10/3/17
May his memory be eternal.

November & December Prosforo

November's prosforo is donated by Maria Tsalikis and December's prosforo is donated by Mina Russos. Thank you. If you would like to donate the Prosforo please call the office.

Little Lambs

This year of Panagia's Little Lambs is off to an amazing start. The room is filled with laughter and playing which makes my heart happy! We have so many new members and a lot of returning ones. Watching the children grow from being the littlest to the oldest is such a blessing.

In September we spent time getting to know each other. It didn't take long for the children to find toys they loved, new friends and learn new songs. Thanks to Emily Liakos who brings fun music for the children to sing and dance to!

October was filled with Halloween fun. We went to Pa's Pumpkin Patch as our outing and had our annual Trunk or Treat and Costume parade! The children loved the train and climbing on the pumpkins at the patch. The parade is always fun for parents. Seeing all the kids in costume is a real treat! Our lessons have focused on doing our cross and going to church. The kids walked over to church to light candles and kiss the icons. They are already so familiar with this important routine!

In November and December we will learn about creation and Jesus' birth. We have exciting activities, celebrations and events planned. We encourage all parents, grandparents and caretakers to bring children ages 3 and under every Wednesday, 10:30-11:30. Please email Elizabethsyrengelas@gmail.com to inquire more and to be put on our email list. This is where updated information about classes and event times/dates are posted.

Thank you to all the dedicated moms and Yiayia's who bring the children weekly!

Love,

Elizabeth Syrengelas

Sunday School

Sunday School is participating with Philoptochos in a special outreach program for Thanksgiving by donating food items for those less fortunate. The "For the Child" van will be at church on November 19th so the students can give their donations directly to the organization that will make sure people in need have a Happy Thanksgiving dinner.

Students can bring their donations in, on any Sunday throughout the month of November.

Christmas Pageant is scheduled for Sunday, December 17, 2017. You are all welcome to join Sunday school in a celebration of The birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Greek School

A job well done to all of our students & teachers at our OXI Day Celebration! Thank you to everyone who supported this event!

**SAVE THE DAY: Christmas Party will be on Dec. 20th, 5:30-7pm
NO CLASS - DECEMBER 27ST & JANUARY 3RD**

Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Many new and exciting things happening with Greek School, Follow us on Facebook. <http://tinyurl.com/AssumptionGreekSchool>

Το όνειρο της πέτρας

Greek Column by Voula Michail

Κάποτε, υπήρχε μια μεγάλη πέτρα, στην άκρη του δρόμου, που ένωσε δυο πόλεις. Οι ταξιδιώτες συνήθιζαν να κάθονται επάνω της και να ξεκουράζονται, κάθε φορά που πέρναγαν από εκεί. Η πέτρα ζήλευε τους ανθρώπους που μπορούσαν να μετακινούνται από εδώ και από εκεί, όποτε το ήθελαν και συχνά παραπονιόταν για τη δική της άχαρη ζωή, που την ανάγκαζε να βρίσκεται ακίνητη σε εκείνο το μέρος, χωρίς να κάνει τίποτα.

Εκείνη διψούσε για περιπέτεια, για εμπειρίες. Το μεγάλο όνειρό της ήταν να ταξιδέψει και να γνωρίσει τον κόσμο. Έτσι κι εκείνη την ημέρα, που ένας γυρολόγος κάθισε επάνω της για να ξεκουραστεί, η πέτρα μας ένωσε ζήλεια για το γυρολόγο, που διέσχισε όλη τη χώρα, πουλώντας τηνπραμάτεια του.

Αφού ήπια νερό και έφαγε λίγο από το ψωμί του, ο γυρολόγος άρχισε να μονολογεί: -Ααχ!!! Πόσο δύσκολη και κουραστική είναι η ζωή μου! Η οικογένειά μου με χρειάζεται κοντά της κι εγώ, είμαι αναγκασμένος να περιδιαβαίνω όλη τη χώρα, για να πουλώ τιςπραμάτειες μου, για να ζω την οικογένειά μου. Περπατώ όλη μέρα, με λίγες στιγμές ξεκούρασης και λίγο ύπνο, για να προλαβαίνω να βρίσκομαι στον προορισμό μου πριν νυχτώσει.

Ο άνθρωπος κοίταξε την πέτρα και χαμογέλασε. -Εσύ, είσαι πολύ τυχερή! Ζεις στο μέρος σου, δεν χρειάζεται να σκέφτεσαι πώς θα τα βγάλεις πέρα, δεν σου λείπει η οικογένειά σου και όλοι οι άνθρωποι σε ευγνωμονούν για το καλό που τους κάνεις! Η πέτρα έμεινε άναυδη! Στράφηκε προς τον άνθρωπο και τον ρώτησε απορημένη:

-Μα τι είναι αυτά που λες; Εγώ είμαι μια ασήμαντη πέτρα! Το μόνο που μπορώ να κάνω σε ολόκληρη τη ζωή μου είναι να ονειρεύομαι. Δεν έχω καμιά άλλη δυνατότητα!

-Αυτή την εντύπωση έχεις για τον εαυτό σου; Της αντιγύρισε ο άνθρωπος. -Μάθε λοιπόν, ότι αυτό που μπορείς να κάνεις εσύ σε όλη τη ζωή σου, δηλαδή να ονειρεύεσαι, οι άνθρωποι δεν το κάνουν πια.

Εγκλωβισμένοι μέσα στα προβλήματα και στο μόχθο τους για τη ζωή, έχουν ξεχάσει αυτή την υπέροχη εμπειρία του ονειρέματος. Προφασίστηκαν ότι δεν έχουν χρόνο για αυτό και έχασαν έτσι τη μαγεία της ζωής!

-Θέλεις να σου πω και για ποιο λόγο είσαι ευλογημένη;

-Ναι, ναι, βέβαια, απάντησε όλο έξαψη η πέτρα.

-Εσύ, κάθεται εδώ, σε αυτό το μέρος μόνιμα και οι άνθρωποι που έρχονται σε εσένα για να αναπνεύσουν, σε γεμίζουν με ένα σωρό ευλογίες και ευχαριστίες που υπάρχουν, ευγνωμονούν το Θεό που φροντίζει για αυτούς. Είσαι η πιο δημοφιλής και αγαπητή παρουσία σε αυτό το δρόμο. Και όσο για το νόημα της ζωής σου, σκέψου το έργο που κάνεις! Αμέτρητοι οι ταξιδιώτες που αναπαύτηκαν επάνω σου, χρόνια και χρόνια!

Η πέτρα παρέμεινε σιωπηλή. Το έργο, οι ταξιδιώτες και η ευγνωμοσύνη τους, η δυστυχία των ανθρώπων να μην ονειρεύονται πια, μα τότε.....

Ο γυρολόγος σηκώθηκε και αφού ευχαρίστησε την πέτρα για την ανάπαυση που του πρόσφερε, τράβηξε το δρόμο του. Η πέτρα έμεινε μόνη. Όμως δεν ήταν πλέον η ίδια πέτρα. Μια ευτυχία την κατέκλυζε. Η ζωή της είχε πια ένα μεγάλο νόημα. Πρόσφερε. Πρόσφερε στους ταξιδιώτες, πρόσφερε στην Ύπαρξη, το δικό της δώρο. Πόσες πολλές ιστορίες ανθρώπων θα είχε να Του πει, όταν θα συναντούσε κάποτε το Θεό της.

Στην άκρη του δρόμου που ένωσε τις δύο πόλεις, μια λαμπερή πέτρα προσκαλούσε τους ταξιδιώτες να ξαποστάσουν. Όλοι τη γνώριζαν και όλοι την ευχαριστούσαν. Και μέρα με τη μέρα η πέτρα γινόταν όλο και πιο λαμπερή.

THE ASSUMPTION GREEK DANCE &
CULTURAL ARTS SCHOOL
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND OUR

2017 New Years Eve Party

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2017

8 PM APPETIZERS

9 PM GREEK DANCE PERFORMANCES

930 PM DINNER AND DANCING

A BEAUTIFUL NIGHT WITH GREAT COMPANY!
FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY INCLUDES, LIVE
MUSIC, A GAME TRUCK AND A PHOTO BOOTH.

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Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church

ADULTS AND TEENS \$70 CHILDREN 12 & UNDER \$35
\$75/\$40 AT THE DOOR

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RSVP TO YOTA BATSARAS CALL, TEXT OR EMAIL
714.306.8082,

ASSUMPTIONLBGREEKDANCE@GMAIL.COM,

Payment options: VENMO, credit card (\$2 fee per ticket) or

Mail Payment Attn. NYE Greek Dance 5761 E. Colorado St. Long Beach, CA 90814

payable to: Assumption Greek Dance.

In the year of the Lord - November 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Panagia's Little Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 am Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	2	3 Futsal Game 6pm - 7:15 pm	4
5 ✚ Ε' Λουκά 5th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am	6	7	8 ✚ Synaxis of the Archangels Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 10 am ✚ Vespers St. Nektarios in Covina 7pm Panagia's Little Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 am Greek School 5:30 pm - 7 pm	9 ✚ Νεκταρίου Αγίου Νεκταρίου the Wonderworker Orthros 9:00 am Divine Liturgy 10:00 am in Covina	10 Futsal Game 6pm - 7:15 pm	11
Sunday School General Assembly						
12 ✚ Η' Λουκά 8th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am	13	14	15 Panagia's Little Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 am Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	16	17 Futsal Game 6pm - 7:15 pm	18 <i>Philoptochos: Light the Path 11:30 am</i>
Sunday School						
19 ✚ Θ' ΛΟΥΚΑ 9th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am	20	21 ✚ The Entrance of the Theotokos Orthros 9:30 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am P. C. Meeting 7:00 pm	22 No Panagia's Little Lambs No Greek School	23 Happy Thanksgiving Office closed	24 Happy Thanksgiving Office closed	25
Sunday School						
26 ✚ ΙΓ' ΛΟΥΚΑ 13th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am	27	28	29 Panagia's Little Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 am Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	30 ✚ Ανδρέου Αποστόλου Andrew the First called Apostle Orthros 9:30 am Divine Liturgy 10 am		

In the year of the Lord - December 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Futsal Game 6pm - 7:15 pm	2
3 ✚ ΙΔ' Λουκά 14th Sunday of Luke Barbara the Great Martyr Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Parish Elections	4	5 ✚ Vespers 7 pm at St. Nicholas in Northridge	6 ✚ St. Nicholas at Rose Hills, Whittier Panagia's Little Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 am Greek School 5:30 pm-7pm	7	8 Futsal Game 6pm - 7:15 pm	9
10 ✚ Ι' Λουκά 10th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Philoptochos Christmas Party	11	12	13 Panagia's Little Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 am Greek School 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	14 Trinity Foster Home Christmas party 4pm - 8p	15 Futsal Game 6pm - 7:15 pm	16
17 ✚ ΙΑ' Λουκά 11th Sunday of Luke Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Sunday School Christmas Pageant	18	19 P. C. Meeting 7 pm	20 Panagia's Little Lambs 10:30 - 11:30 am Greek School Christmas Party 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	21	22	23
24 ✚ Προ της Χριστού Γεννήσεως Sunday before Nativity Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am ✚ Christmas Eve Nativity Liturgy 5 pm	25 ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΑ HOLY NATIVITY Office closed	26	27 No Panagia's Little Lambs No Greek School	28	29	30
31 ✚ Προ των Φώτων Sunday before Theophany Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Gr. Dance: New Year's Eve Glendi 8 pm						