

VOICE

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

April - May 2026



Καλό Πάσχα!
A Blessed Paschal Season to All!

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church
Fr. Gustavo Gregory Alfonso, Interim Priest
Fr. Deacon John Howard

8210 Cypress Lake Drive ~ Fort Myers, Florida 33919-5116
Telephone: (239) 481-2099 Fax: (239) 481-0504 Email: officeagoc@gmail.com
Fr. Gustavo's email: gzalfonso59@gmail.com Website: Annunciation.fl.goarch.org
NEW Parish Office Hours: Monday thru Friday 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
Parish Secretary: **Donna Sowers** Custodian: **Val Hernandez**

VOICE EDITOR

Fr. Gustavo Alfonso

Altar

Don Headley

PARISH COUNCIL

Excutive Officers:

Heidi Kubiak

President

Olympia Ruppe

Vice-President

Mike Stamatopoulos

Treasurer

Mike Greenberg

Assistant Treasurer

Louise DiStefano

Secretary

Board Members:

Sundy Gulu

Stella Karras

Vasili Kourpouanidis

Art Turnas

John Xouris

Dmitry Yusin

Choir

Virginia Headley, Director

Heidi Kubiak, Organist

Chanter

Virginia Headley

Prosporo Bread

Doreen Turnas

Religious Education

Joanna Pastrokos

HOPE & JOY Advisors

Andrew & Joanna Pastrokos

Welcoming Committee

Stavroula Samaras

(Ministry Leader)

Bookstore

Virginia Headley

Dance Troupe

Georgia Kline

Victoria Neskes

Lea Koltoukis

Visit us on Facebook

Annunciation GOC Fort Myers

Ladies Philoptochos

Fran Goldner

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Parish of Fort Myers Mission Statement

The mission of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church Parish is to proclaim and live the Orthodox Christian Faith in its fullness as faithful brothers and sisters in Christ, and to welcome all who are seeking the truth of the Lord's presence, mercy and grace. We must focus as a family of believers in order to reach salvation in and through Jesus Christ. This sacred mission is fulfilled in the Holy Spirit by living our faith through worship, teaching, witness, outreach, service and fellowship. All parish activities will succeed if only done for the glory of God. By using our own God-given gifts of Time, Talents, and Treasures we will accomplish this divine sacred work.

Message from our Interim Priest

*Christos Anesti! Alithos Anesti!
Christ is Risen! Indeed He is Risen!
Khristos voskrese! Voistinu voskrese!
Hristos a înviat! Adevărat a înviat!
¡Cristo ha resucitado! ¡En verdad ha resucitado!
al-Masīḥ qām! Ḥaqqan qām!
Kristos Tenestwal! Bergit Tenestwal!*

My Dear Annunciation Family,

I greet you with joy in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ who is Risen from the Dead. Pascha is the “Feast of Feasts” in which the people of God rejoice in Christ. The empty tomb is the source and only reason of our faith; as St. Paul says, “if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty” (1 Cor 15:14).

The Paschal Season, in which we will enter in a few short days, is a special time where we celebrate Christ’s victory over death, and we continue in our journey with the disciples learning about how Christ fulfilled God’s plan of salvation for mankind. We prepare for His glorification at the right hand of the Father upon His Ascension, and we await the promise Christ made to his disciples to receive the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, who proceeds from the Father on the day of Pentecost.

I pray that all of us, believing in Christ and therefore being adopted as “children of God,” will continue to grow strong in our brotherhood and love for each other. May the light that shone forth from the empty tomb be our hope, our joy and our peace.

Yours in the Risen Lord,
Fr. Gustavo

Some liturgical notes to remember:

The Paschal Hymn, “Christ is risen from the dead” is sung or said at the beginning or end of all prayers, and we greet each other with the Paschal salutation, “Christ is risen! Truly He is risen!” for 40 days until the Leave-taking of Pascha on the Eve of Ascension.

We do not kneel or make prostrations either at church services or in our homes until the “Kneeling Prayers” at Pentecost (50 days after Pascha).

Message from the Parish Council President

Dear Annunciation family,

Thank you to so many of you who stepped in to give of your time and talents for our successful Greek Fest. To John and Olympia Ruppe, no words can suffice for the work you do to organize and lead that event! Just know we appreciate you.

Congratulations to Stella Karras for becoming our newest Parish Council member. We welcome you and know how much of your time, talents and treasures you share with us, now as an official member of the Council. Congratulations to you, Joanna and Andrew on the birth of your newest grandson! Also, thank you for continuing to lead the Nick Karras Grand Raffle supporting the Building Fund. It is our second largest fundraiser, and we appreciate the time and talents it takes that you give.

We have been on our Paschal Lenten journey, and heading into Holy Week. We look forward to seeing you thru this most Holy and Reverent of weeks, knowing our celebration time is coming, that Christ defeats death, for all of us.

We will be holding our Parish Assembly meeting in a few weeks. Please come and join us as we discuss our projects, and update you on many important items.

Thank you, and as always, love you! I appreciate each of you on the Council, and the many duties you all have.

Prayers to those who are in need of healing.

Heidi Kubiak

Philoptochos Ministry

Hello Annunciation Family,

I hope you are all well and enjoying your Lenten journey to Easter; can't believe it's almost here!

I also want to thank so many of you, for wearing red on National Women's Heart Health Day! We appreciate your supporting and bringing awareness to this disease that affects so many of us.

Thanks to all who volunteered to make our annual Greek Fest a great success!

Our peanut butter and jelly drive is in full swing. Drop your plastic containers of nut butter and jelly in the Narthex by April 30. Your donations will help to feed hungry children in our area during the summer months.

We attended our beautiful Annunciation of the Theotokos Great Vespers on the evening of March 24, celebrated our feast day and enjoyed fellowship together. Our Philoptochos members prepared an array of Lenten appetizers and desserts that were enjoyed by all! Thank you so much to all who participated.

Finally, we have been busy preparing for our Annual Spring Bake Sale! Big thank you to Lea Collier and Annie Migliore for chairing this event which is a huge undertaking of time, talents and treasures!!! We are grateful to all that helped baked, donated supplies, and purchased our delicious cakes, cookies, breads, and appetizers. We appreciate you!

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 13 at 6:00 pm in the Education building. Please make sure your membership is paid by then, and feel free to bring a friend to the meeting.

Thank you for all that you do and Kali Anastasi!

Your President and friend,
Fran Goldner



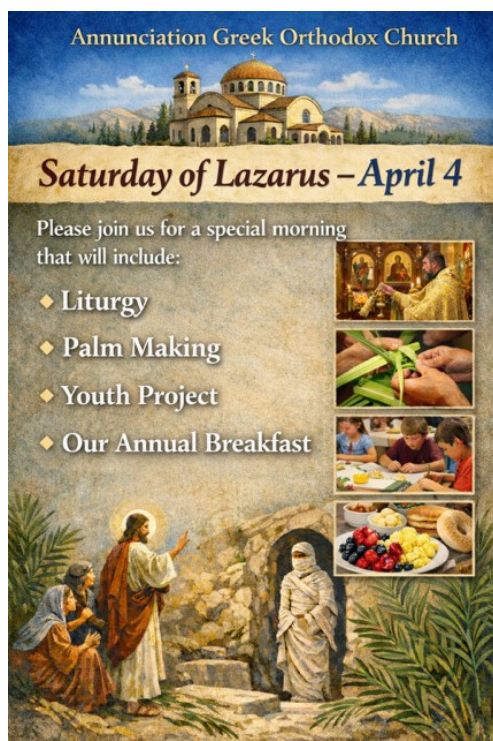
Religious Education & Youth Ministries



On Sunday, March 1, we celebrated the Sunday of Orthodoxy, reflecting on the beauty and truth of our faith.



On Sunday, March 15, we held our March project, "Passports to Pascha," where students enjoyed a meaningful and engaging lesson on our spiritual journey toward Pascha!



Saturday of Lazarus -- April 4

Please join us for a special and joyful morning that will include:

Divine Liturgy

Palm making

Youth project

Our annual breakfast

We kindly ask families to sign up to bring Lenten breakfast items.

Looking Ahead to Holy Week (April 5-April 12)

We are beginning preparations and invite our youth to participate:

Holy Week Readers (Grades 3-12) Please contact Georgia Kline

Myrrh Bearers for Good Friday (April 10) Please contact Victoria Neskes

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our parents, volunteers, and parish family for your continued support and involvement. We look forward to a blessed season of faith, learning, and fellowship with our children

In Christ,
Andrew & Joanna Pastrokos

Stewardship Ministry

Stewardship Update, April-May 2026

Thank you for your generosity. What a beautiful example of the tenants of stewardship were observed during our Greekfest. So many gave! Whether it was time, talents or treasure, our family came together and we held **Fest #51!** The rich tapestry of our culture, traditions, food and faith were on display. So many people enjoyed our Church tours, our dancers, our vendors and of course, our food. Thank you, again!

Together, with all of our Parish continuing to support one another, we can come ever closer to Him, to His Word, and to His Will. Jesus invited us all to "Come and See." This invitation by Him has to do with raising awareness: we are His people carrying on His Ministry.

Ongoing is our Stewardship Outreach Plan – focused on **Time & Talent**. What we're striving for is full participation. But how? With **100% of our Parish** completing and submitting the 2026 Stewardship Pledge Card.

But why? Why is it so important for 100% of our Parish to complete the card? Simple: As Jesus said, "Freely you have received; freely give," (Matthew 10:8). Each of us, according to our ability, have Time, Talent, & Treasure to give. By acting on this we can create the community He called us to.

- Giving of our **Time**: helping and volunteering could be as an educator, a greeter, or hospitality, staffing fundraisers. Many opportunities present themselves here.
- Giving of our **Talent**: contribute your unique skills to a worthy Ministry and live a fuller life.
- Giving of our **Treasure**: this extends beyond money; it refers to material resources, tools, expertise, maintenance, community contacts.

As for Stewardship numbers: From our Stewardship drive and through early February:

- Over 200 Parish Families
- Of our Parish, 107 Families have completed their Pledge Card
- And 22 Families have given but not completed their Pledge Card
- Pledges total almost \$118,000, and amount given so far is almost \$27,000
- The Parish Stewardship financial need is \$185,000, as approved by the General Assembly

So, I say to all: Let's Roll Up Our Sleeves. Stewardship committee will be coming together soon. Many hands make for light work. Thank you for generosity and keeping in mind that Stewardship is not only funding, but rather time and talents. All this is meant for each of us as brother and sisters in Christ to be part of the life of the church and to come ever closer to Him. Let us all "Come and See."

Yours in the Lord,
 Vasili Kourpouanidis
 Stewardship Chair
 Email: vkourpouan@icloud.com
 Phone: 239-220-1998

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 Email: officeagoc@gmail.com
 www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org

Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church

April 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Palm Sunday Orthos 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM <i>Palm Sunday Luncheon</i> 1st Bridegroom Service 6:00PM	6 Holy Monday 2nd Bridegroom Service 6:00PM FAST	7 Holy Tuesday 3rd Bridegroom Service 6:00PM FAST	1 Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00PM Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM FAST	2 FAST	3 FAST	4 Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy 9:30AM Cross making after Liturgy FAST
12 Holy Pascha Agape Vespers 11:00AM Easter Egg Hunt	13 Philoptochos Meeting 6:00PM NO FAST	14 NO FAST	8 Holy Wednesday Holy Unction Service 6:00PM FAST	9 Holy Thursday Vespers Divine Liturgy 9:30AM The Passion of Our Lord 6:00PM FAST	10 Good Friday Kouvouklion Decoration 9:00AM Wrap Eggs Taking down from the Cross 3:00PM Lamentations 6:00PM <i>Parish Office Closed</i> FAST	11 Holy Saturday Vespers Divine Liturgy 9:30AM PASCHA SERVICE 9:00PM FAST
19 St. Thomas Sunday Orthos 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM General Assembly Meeting	20	21	15 Parish Council Meeting 6:00PM Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM NO FAST	16 NO FAST	17 NO FAST	18 Women's Ministry Gathering 11:00AM NO FAST
26 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women Orthos 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM	27	28	22 Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM	23	24	25 Women's Ministry Gathering 11:00AM
			29 Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM	30		

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May 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Sunday of the Paralytic Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM		5	6 Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM FAST	7	8 FAST	9
10 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Sunday School 10:00AM Mothers Day	11 Philoptochos Meeting 6:00PM	12	13 Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM FAST	14	15 FAST	16
17 Sunday of the Blind Man Orthros 9:00 AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM Last day of Sunday School	18	19	20 Parish Council Meeting 6:00PM Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM FAST	21	22 FAST	23
24 Fathers of the 1st Council Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM	25 Memorial Day PARISH OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 Men's Ministry Gathering 6:45PM FAST	28	29 FAST	30
31 Pentecost Orthros 9:00AM Divine Liturgy 10:00AM						

2026 ANNUNCIATION EVENTS CALENDAR
April - May

Wednesday, April 1st – Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00PM
Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

Saturday, April 4th – Saturday of Lazarus Divine Liturgy 9:30AM
Cross making after Liturgy

Sunday, April 5th – Palm Sunday Luncheon after Liturgy
1st Bridegroom Service 6:00PM

Monday, April 6th – 2nd Bridegroom Service 6:00PM

Tuesday, April 7th – 3rd Bridegroom Service 6:00PM

Wednesday, April 8th – Holy Unction Service 6:00PM

Thursday, April 9th – Vespers Divine Liturgy 9:30AM
The Passion of Our Lord 6:00PM

Friday, April 10th – Good Friday - Parish Office Closed
Kouvouklion Decoration 9:00AM Wrap Eggs
Taking down from the Cross 3:00PM
Lamentations 6:00PM

Saturday, April 11th – Vespers Divine Liturgy 9:30AM
Pascha Service 9:00PM

Sunday, April 12th – Holy Pascha Agape Vespers 11:00AM
Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 13th – Philoptochos Meeting 6:00PM

Wednesday, April 15th – Parish Council Meeting 6:00PM
Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

Saturday, April 18th – Women’s Ministry Gathering 11:00AM

Sunday, April 19th – General Assembly Meeting after Divine Liturgy

Wednesday, April 22nd – Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

Saturday, April 25th – Women’s Ministry Gathering 11:00AM

Wednesday, April 29th – Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

Wednesday, May 6th – Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

Sunday, May 10th – Mother’s Day

Monday, May 11th – Philoptochos Meeting 6:00PM

Wednesday, May 13th – Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

Sunday, May 17th – Last day of Sunday School

Wednesday, May 20th – Parish Council Meeting 6:00PM
Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

Monday, May 25th – Memorial Day Parish Office Closed

Wednesday, May 27th – Men’s Ministry Gathering 6:45PM

******ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE******

Thank you to all of you who made Greek Fest a SUCCESS! To all leads and volunteers, we want to extend our deepest gratitude to each of you. The festival was a success, and it simply wouldn't have been possible without you helping us put this together.

Whether you were marinating meat, serving loukoumades, serving over 3000 fries, working all day over hot grills, selling raffle tickets, doing Church tours, or keeping the grounds beautiful, your energy was the heartbeat of our festival. It takes hundreds of helping hands to share our culture with thousands of guests, and you all did it with a smile every single time. You didn't just serve food; you shared our heritage and faith with our neighbors. The dancers were amazing. We hope you enjoyed the festivities as much as the guests did. We couldn't have pulled this without you. Save the date Greek Fest 2027-February 19-21.

With Love and Gratitude, John and Olympia Ruppe, Co-Chairs



8210 Cypress Lake Drive
Fri & Sat 11am-11pm
Sun 11am-7pm



Congratulations to our \$20,000 Raffle winners!!!



February Birthdays!



Godparent Sunday, February 3rd



1st Salutations of The Theotokos



Sunday of Orthodoxy



Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross



40 Day Churching



Parish Feast Day Annunciation Great Vespers...



... and Happy 36th Anniversary
Fr. Gustavo & Pres. Margarita!



ANNUNCIATION ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE

The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club
Sanibel Island
949 Sand Castle Road
(239) 472-3355

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- \$250 - Contest Sponsorship
Options include Men's & Women's Longest Drive & Closest to the Pin
- \$125 - Hole Sponsorship

Any cash, gift baskets, gift cards and golf foursome donations are also welcome!

MAY 16TH 9:00AM SHOTGUN START

Includes:
• golf cart,
• lunch onsite,
• entry into longest drive and closest to the pin contests

REGISTRATION OPTIONS

- Register and pay online on the church website (see below), or
- Fill out the registration on back and send to church with check or pay at the course

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:45 AM Golf Registration
9:00 - 1:30 AM Shotgun Start
1:30 - 3:30 PM Lunch, Awards, and Happy Hour

Bonus Plays: \$20 Super Tickets \$5 Putting Contest

Register Now
www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org
Registration deadline is May 13th!

Question? Contact Marilyn (239) 229-7511 necak@comcast.net
or church office (239) 481-2099 officeagoc@gmail.com

ANNUNCIATION ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE REGISTRATION

Scan QR Code to Register, or complete the form and email or send to the church.

The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club
Sanibel Island
949 Sand Castle Road
(239) 472-3355

\$150/Golfer \$600/Team

Any cash, gift baskets, gift cards and golf foursome donations are also welcome!

Team #1 Team Name: _____

Golfer 1: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Golfer 2: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Golfer 3: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Golfer 4: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Notes: _____

Team #2 Team Name: _____

Golfer 1: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Golfer 2: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Golfer 3: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Golfer 4: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

Notes: _____

ANNUNCIATION ANNUAL GOLF SCRAMBLE SPONSORSHIP

The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club
Sanibel Island
949 Sand Castle Road
(239) 472-3355

MAY 16TH 9:00AM SHOTGUN START

\$250 Contest Sponsor \$125 Hole Sponsor

Any cash, gift baskets, gift cards and golf foursome donations are also welcome!
DEADLINE: May 13th
Pay at church or online here:

Contest Sponsor \$250 per contest (longest drive closest to the pin, 1st place) men's & women's

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Notes: _____

Hole Sponsorship: \$125 per hole (24' X 18" sign) placed on a tee-box or near a green

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Sign Wording: _____

Questions Contact: Marilyn Necak: (239) 229-7511 necak@comcast.net
Church Office: (239) 481-2099 officeagoc@gmail.com

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Palm Sunday Luncheon

Please Join Us!

Sunday, April 5, 2026
Following Divine Liturgy
Father Arthur Kontinos Hall

Menu

- ◆ Plaki Fish served with Rice
- ◆ Greek Green Beans
- ◆ Greek Salad
- ◆ Dinner Roll
- ◆ Dessert

Children's Menu will be provided

Tickets

- ◆ Adults: \$25 ◆ Teens: \$10 ◆ Children (12 & under): \$5

For Tickets Call: 239-481-2099
Or Purchase Online: www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org
See Louise Distefano or Olympia Ruppe following Liturgy to sign up.

RSVP by Thursday, March 26, 2026

Donated by the Ruppe, Turnas and Williams Family