



GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
ANNUNCIATION
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

ANNUNCIATION'S TEMPORARY MEASURES TO CONTAIN COVID-19

Considering current developments from state agencies regarding the COVID-19 virus and the efforts of containment in the State of California and Sacramento County, we at the Annunciation parish in Sacramento are taking the following *temporary* measures to help the efforts to contain the virus:

- All Divine Liturgies and Lenten services will continue as scheduled.
- All non-Liturgical events are suspended until further notice (i.e. Ministries, Fraternal Organizations, etc.)
- All liturgical books have been removed from the pews.
- Hand sanitizer will be available in the Narthex.
- Parish council will be wiping down and sanitizing all pews, icons, and frequently touched areas regularly.
- If you do not feel comfortable venerating icons, please simply bow in prayer and respect.
- We will not have bread bowls out during the distribution of Holy Communion.
- Following the Divine Liturgy, the Priest will distribute antidoron to the faithful so that only one hand goes into the bowl, but you are not to kiss his hand.

These efforts are in hopes of preventing transmission of this virus to our local community, but we also must be prayerful and vigilant so that the sicknesses of fear and anxiety are not transmitted more than the virus itself. **“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.”** (1 John 4:18)

We are children of God, and disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God, who has overcome the world and is the giver of all good things. During this season of Great Lent, we are prescribed to increase our prayer life in preparation for the resurrection of our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ. Now, more than ever, is the appropriate time to pray!

We encourage all to pray to the Virgin Mary for her protection; to the physician Saints of our Church, Cosmas, Damian, Panteleimon, Hermolaos, Cyrus, John, Hermione, and Luke for focus and determined efforts of our medical professionals; the Wonderworking and Healing Saints Dionysios, Nektarios, Demetrios, Artemios, and Vlasios for those who have been afflicted by this virus; and to all the Saints for their intercessions and prayers during this season! May this bring us closer to our Lord, God, and Savior, Jesus Christ, through the prayers, intercessions, and relationship with His mother and all His saints!

The primary precaution of all parishioners and visitors is that if you are sick, please do not attend services until symptoms are gone. Note you can still follow our Divine Services from home using our wonderful live streaming via Facebook. During services, simply visit our parish Facebook on your smartphone or tablet or the “Facebook Watch” app on your smart TV.

With love in Christ,

Father James Retelas

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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