

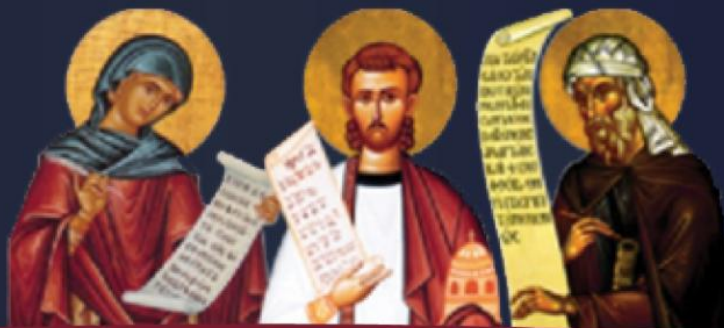
2025 Lenten Edition

# GREEK ORTHODOX OF SAN FRANCISCO

## MUSIC MINISTRY



METROPOLIS OF  
SAN FRANCISCO



# THE *Grace* NOTE

YOUR MID-MONTHLY DIGEST OF CHURCH MUSIC NEWS

PROVIDING THE BEST RESOURCES TO OUR PARISHES

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# Lord, BLESS US IN OUR LENTEN JOURNEY!



## A LETTER FROM HIS EMINENCE

March 2025

Beloved and faithful musicians,

***“The psalmody which takes place in the church is an entreaty to God.”  
Saint Nikodemos of the Holy Mountain***

As committed Orthodox Christians and dedicated musicians in our Metropolis, you continue to demonstrate your love for Christ and His Church through your unselfish offerings. Especially at the onset of Great Lent where the demands of your time and talent will be intensified, please know how much you are appreciated. It is also worth

noting that the music you share contributes greatly to the sanctity of the many services that will guide us on our journey to the Resurrection and this is an important responsibility.

Your individual and collective examples of stewardship are worthy to be emulated by others. It is not uncommon to find choir directors, choir members, chanters and organists who have served their parishes for 30, 40 or even 50 years or more. What a beautiful testimony of stewardship and unconditional love!

Music transcends the spoken word, and through your important ministry of music, you replicate the voices of the angels who ceaselessly praise God. It is my fervent prayer that the Lord will give you strength on your Lenten journey and all your days so that you may continue to bring glory to His name through music!

*With Love in Christ,*

✠ METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS  
OF SAN FRANCISCO

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
Music Ministry  
*presents*

**A Holy Week Primer:**  
Developing familiarity with the  
structure and hymns of Holy Week

1st Session - The Bridegroom Services  
Mikael Habtezion & Ross Ritterman

Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco  
Music Ministry  
*presents*

**A Holy Week Primer:**  
Developing familiarity with the  
structure and hymns of Holy Week

2nd Session - Presanctified Liturgy and Unction during Holy Week  
Christopher Hondros

**Our Holy Week Webinar**  
*is off to a Strong Start*

Over 75 people have registered and 40 attended the first session. Q&A times have been lively with great questions!

The Goals for the series are threefold:

- *Assist Church Musicians and laypersons to better understand the Holy Week services*
- *Come away with an understanding of the liturgical and theological structure of the services*
- *Learn how to sing many of the most loved hymns*

*The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Music Ministry Presents:*

## **A Holy Week Primer**

**February 25-March 18, 2025**

**Hosted by: Christopher Hondros, Ministry Coordinator**



### **About the series**

*This series of seven webinars will focus on service structure and music for Holy Week. It has been designed and intended for church musicians and laypeople alike. Each session will be approximately an hour long and will begin at 7:00 PM Pacific Time.*

### **With Guest Presenters:**

Ross Ritterman  
Photini Downie Robinson  
Mikael Habetzion

### **Live Video Sessions**

Tuesday, February 25 - Bridegroom Services  
Thursday, February 27 - Presanctified Liturgies and Unction during Holy Week  
Tuesday, March 4 - Holy Thursday  
Thursday, March 6 - Holy Friday part 1  
Tuesday, March 11 - Holy Friday part 2  
Thursday, March 13 - Holy Saturday, part 1  
Tuesday, March 18 - Holy Saturday, part 2

### **Registration Link:**



<https://forms.gle/mUwRRfHLCpCgIano7>

**View Sessions Online**

Registration is still available for the live sessions, and recordings of each session will be posted on our [YouTube Channel](#) as they are completed.

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## Record Number of Choral Groups AT FDF THIS YEAR

The largest number of choral groups ever participated in the choral competition in Anaheim. Eleven groups from nine parishes (Long Beach, Seattle, Modesto, Los Angeles, San Diego, Cardiff-by-the Sea, Honolulu, Covina, San Jose) of the Metropolis entered the choral competition. The Music Ministry is so proud of each of them. ***Congratulations to the winners!***

### Division II

#### Director award

*Maria Vasiliou*, Saint Sophia Cathedral, Los Angeles

#### Founders award for Creative Integration of Storytelling

*Mia Foni*, St. Sophia Cathedral Los Angeles

#### Third Place

*Ta Aidonakia*, St. Demetrios – Seattle

#### Second Place

*Mikra Asteria*, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Long Beach

#### First Place

*Dynami*, Annunciation – Modesto

#### Sweepstakes

*Mia Foni*, St. Sophia Cathedral Los Angeles

## Division I

### Director award

*Amanda Fields and Vivian Tavernakis, St. Nicholas, San Jose*

### Founders award for Representing the future of Byzantine Music in the United States

*Psaltis, Saint Nectaros, Covina CA*

### Third Place

*St. Spyridon Youth Choir, San Diego*

### Second Place

*Sirines, St. Nicholas, San Jose*

### First Place

*Aloha Youth Choir, Saints Constantine and Helen, Honolulu*

### Sweepstakes

*Antixisis, Saint Demetrios, Seattle*

**For more fun photos and videos check out the FDF website!**



We know you are out there singing, learning, and sharing your faith in your parishes!

Please send us your high-resolution photos so that we can share them as we refurbish our website to bring joy and encouragement to all.

**No news is ... *no news!***

We would love to share stories and photos from your parish. Items sent by the last week of the month will be featured in the next month's issue of our Grace Note. Can't wait to see and hear what's been happening with you.

[Email Us](#)

**Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco**  
Church Music Federation Ministry

[Contact Us](#)



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