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Being together is the best Blessing. Wishing our  
Panagia community the Blessing of togetherness.

Vickie and George Demos  
Joanna, Peter and Mina  
Eleni and Brandon  
Christa and Dimitri





Welcome!

We welcome you to the 73rd Annual Greek Festival of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of Long Beach.

The members of the church have been working hard in preparing for this beautiful three day event and proud to share the rich culture, heritage, faith and traditions of Greece with the Long Beach community.

Our Greek Festival marks the beginning of our Parish Calender as it unites our parishioners as a family, and we open our home to the community. Our parish consists of more than 500 families, with many active ministries. Please make sure to visit our website at [www.assumptionlb.org](http://www.assumptionlb.org) to learn more about us.

We are delighted to share our home community the beauty and life that was passed down to us from our ancestors.

Please also take time to visit our Byzantine Greek Orthodox Church especially during Church tours and see its beautiful iconography art. We hope that you enjoy yourselves.

God Bless you and thank you for coming.

In Christ  
Fr. Christos and Dcn. Evangelos



## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church



5761 E Colorado Blvd • Tel.: (562) 494-8929 • Fax: (562) 985-1379  
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I am honored this year to co-chair the 73rd Annual Long Beach Greek Festival. My childhood memories were filled with excitement in anticipation of the Festival recalling the wonderful times with friends and family. The sights, sounds, and aroma of "Greek Food" are something I will always cherish.

This is the time of the year that brings friends from around Southern California to mingle, reminisce, and generally catch up.

I am always taken aback when I reunite with old friends at the Festival. The feeling of nostalgia comes over me as we pick up right where we left off!

One of the many blessings of being of Greek descent is that you carry that special bond of friendship throughout your whole life, no matter how long you are apart. As Greeks, we have something very special we carry. A gift called "Filotimo" is said to be the most untranslatable, demanding, and mysterious word in the Greek language. Literally, of course, it means friend of honor.

The great philosopher, Thales said, "Filotimo to the Greek is like breathing. A Greek is not a Greek without it... it involves personal pride, dignity, courage, duty, sacrifice, even one's life, and above all demands respect and deep personal freedom...it is inbred."

I invite you to be Greek for a day. Come and join us and make friends that will last forever and spread Filotimo to others.

With Filotimo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Eleopoulos'.

Jimmy Eleopoulos  
Parish Council President  
Co-Chairman 2022 Greek Festival



Dear Guest,

Welcome to the 2022 Long Beach Greek Festival! Thank you for coming and helping us celebrate our culture and heritage with friends and family for the 73rd year.

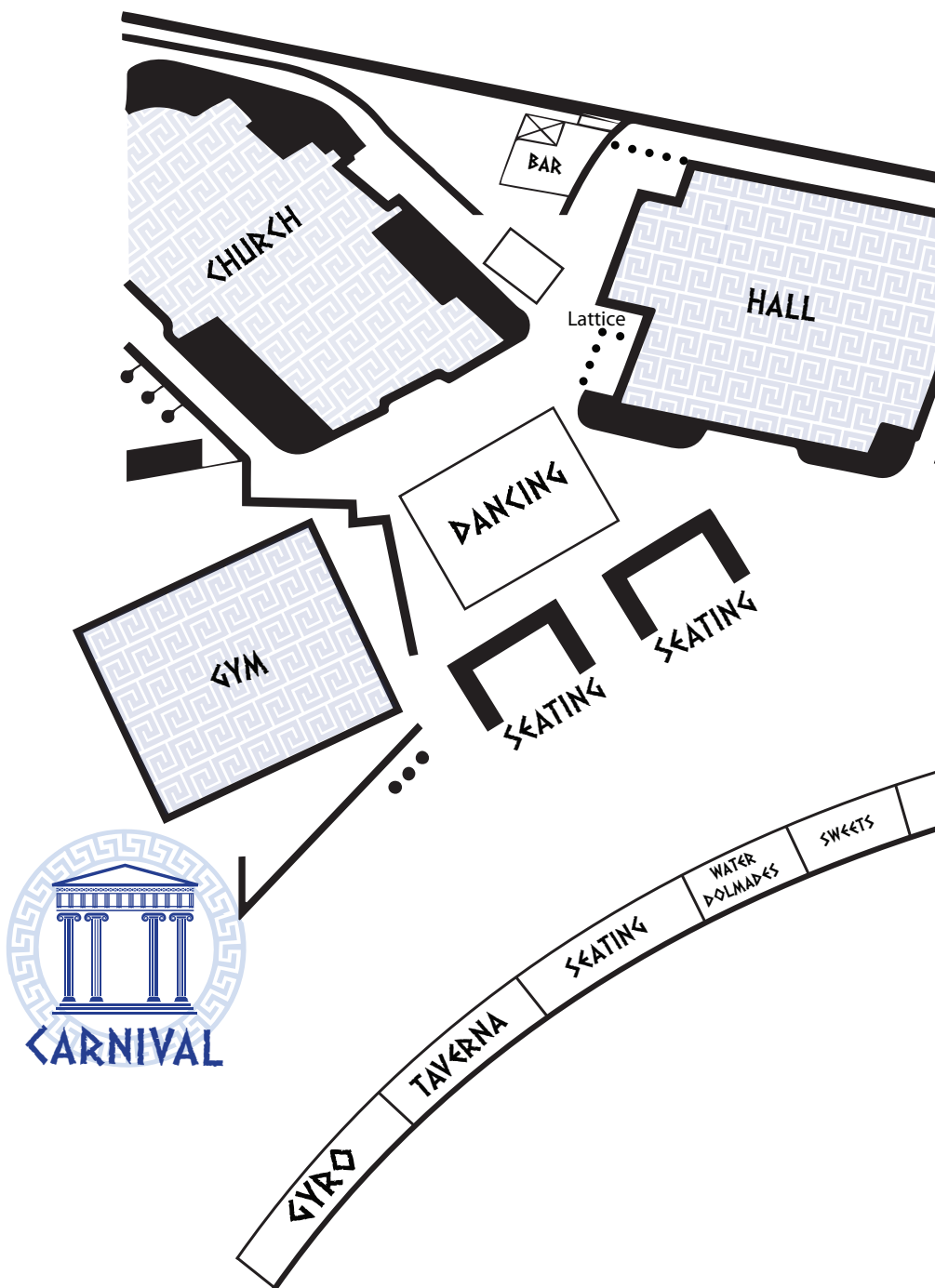


Consider yourself Greek for the day as you enjoy authentic Greek entrees, desserts, **music, and dancing**. Feel free to step onto the dance floor or enjoy some of the Greek spirits and wine offered at our bar. Our festival offers many different types of food options so please take your time and visit every booth. The desserts are all handmade with care and can also be taken to go for a late night snack!

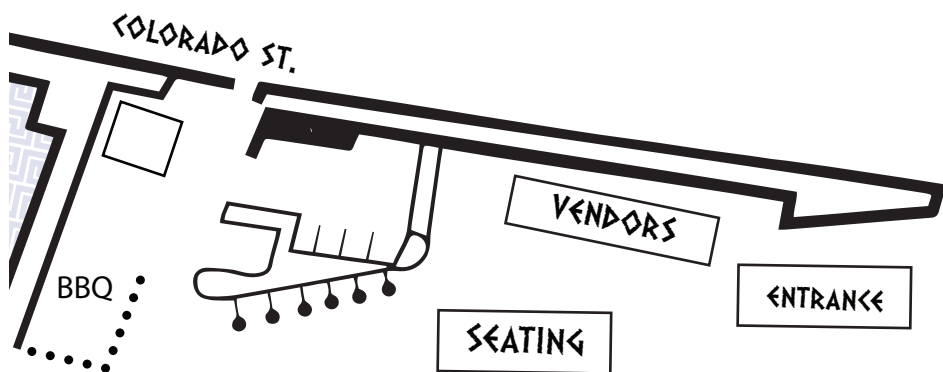


Our entire festival committee and church community have been working tirelessly over the past months to put on this event for the Long Beach community. We look forward to you enjoying all the hard work we have put in! We hope you leave filled with food and joy and can't wait to see you back next year!

-Long Beach Festival Committee









Dear Assumption of Long Beach,  
Here's to three glorious days of all things Greek:  
delicious food, beer, wine, dancing and carnival rides.  
Wishing good health and happiness to all!  
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*Philoptochos Baking Team*

## **Wishing our Parish a Successful Greek Festival by the Sea 2022.**

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---

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For a Successful Festival**

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be as successful  
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To All The Volunteers.  
Best wishes to  
another great year

***Jimmy Eleopoulos***

& Family



## History of Our Church

The Church has been in Long Beach for over 75 years. In the early days of our community approximately twice a year Los Angeles priests would come to minister the various sacraments to Orthodox Christians gathered at St. Luke's Episcopal Church at 7th Street and Atlantic Boulevard.

In 1933 the Greek community of Long Beach thrived to build their own church and purchased the first parcel of land at the southwest corner of Pacific Avenue and 17th Street in Long Beach, California.

The early community history begins with the arrival of our first priest, Father Nicholas Billiris in 1949, and continues during his 35 years of service before retiring. Fr. Kourementis arrives in 1984 and spearheads the movement to build a newer church at our current location.



After sale of the original church, the parish required a move to temporary spaces which was in the then Marina Pacifica Mall.

After a few years the parish continued to thrive and was able to achieve their goals of building a new Church and Banquet Hall in 1991 in our current location.

Our parish continues to thrive and now under the leadership of our spiritual leader, Fr. Christos Kanakis we look forward to many more years in Long Beach

We do hope you have a chance to visit our beautiful Church; The Assumption Of the Blessed Virgin Mary

important milestones in our history

1937 – the Long Beach parish Hellenic community/church was granted a charter.

1939 – first parcel of land for the church was purchased at the southwest corner of Pacific Avenue and 17th Street in Long Beach, California.

1947 – original church construction began with ground breaking on Pacific Avenue

1991 official opening of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church.

1947, Our church choir was organized.

1937 A Philoptochos chapter before the organization of the Long Beach Greek community on October 4, 1937.

2012 the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church of Long Beach celebrated the 75th anniversary as a community.



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# CONGRATULATIONS

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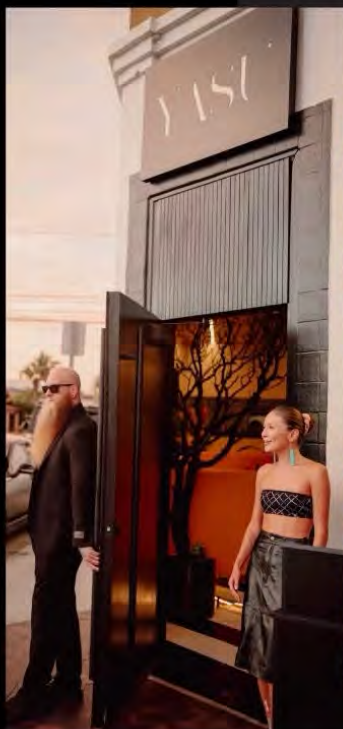
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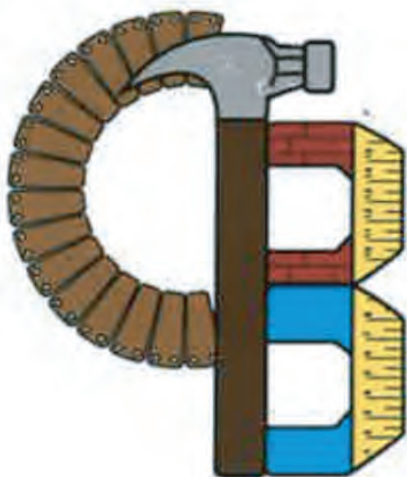
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*Athena Sehremelis  
and her grandchildren  
send their best wishes  
to the Assumption  
of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary Greek Orthodox  
Church  
during the  
73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Festival.*

*May God bless you all*



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*To great times and  
great memories*

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THE STAVROS FAMILY

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**We wish the Panagia  
Much love happiness health and continued success**

Rev. Deacon Evangelos, Diakonissa Eleni Tia and Gregory







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*God created humanity to live in relationship with Him and each other.*

*We are also given the awesome responsibility to care for and manage creation.*

*(Genesis 1:26-30, Genesis 2:18, Ephesians 1:4-5)*

*“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous.*

*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)*

*Our warmest regards to all in the Assumption community and beyond!*

*Dennis, Giselle, Jordan, and Gabrielle*

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