

2017-2018

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance Ministry

The St. Anna Orthodox Folk Dance Ministry provides further fellowship opportunities for our young parishioners. As a faith based ministry, meaningful Sunday School attendance and active participation in the Parish's other youth fellowships is a prerequisite to participation.

Through the Orthodox Folk Dance Ministry, young people will be given the opportunity to learn the folk dances of Greece along with the various other countries that represent the ancestry of our parishioners. Ministry participants will showcase their talents within the Parish and in the broader community.

Over time, the Folk Dance Ministry will provide opportunities for its young participants to enjoy fellowship with other Orthodox parishes throughout the Salt Lake Valley. The Ministry will also explore opportunities for our young people to come together and showcase their talents with other parishes regionally or nationally.

Welcome to the 2017-18 Dance Year at Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church. We are happy that you have decided to entrust your children to us to teach dances, songs, and traditions of the various regions of Greece. This is a great place for children to grow and develop lifelong friendships. We are a youth ministry that follows the teachings and leadership of our Greek Orthodox religion and are under the guidance of our Spiritual Father, Father Anthony Savas.

Inside this handbook, you will find some valuable information, rules, and procedures of the Dance program. It is meant to inform you of what to expect from the program and what the responsibilities are of each parent, dancer, Dance Director, and Sponsor.

There are many opportunities to get involved and volunteer. Please come see me regarding any assistance you may be able to give, new faces are always welcome.

Of course, this is only an overview and each dance group and instructor will run their practices to meet the specific needs of their group. During the course of the year, based on the needs of the program and for the benefit of the children, rules and procedures may change.

Again I welcome you, and look forward to getting to know each and every one of you, as we grow in faith together.

Connie Cayias
St Anna Greek Dance Program Director

**St. Anna Greek Folk Dance
Table of Contents**

| | Page |
|-------------------------------------|------|
| Contacts | 1 |
| Roles & Responsibilities | 2 |
| Dance Groups | 3 |
| Tuition | 3 |
| General Rules | 4 |
| Practice Schedules | 5 |
| A Note to Parents | 6 |
| Committees/Showcases | 7 |
| Important Dates | 8 |

**St. Anna Greek Folk Dance
Contacts**

**Father Anthony Savas
Program Director: Connie Cayias 801-554-9273**

Kindergarten- 2

**Director: Angela Patterson 801-953-5004
Sponsor:**

Grades 3-5

**Director: Presbytera Andrea Savas 818-281-3837
Sponsor:**

Grades 6-8

**Director: Alexia Savas 818-398-3837
Sponsor:**

Grades 9-12

**Directors: Georgiann Pino 801-450-0187
Sponsor:**

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance Roles & Responsibilities

All Dance Group Ministry Members will be in good standing with a current stewardship commitment to Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church

Program Director: The Program Director is responsible for the entire dance program. The Program Director oversees all events, dance groups, Dance Directors, Sponsors, governing bodies and committees within the dance program. The Pastor appoints the Program Director.

Dance Directors: The responsibility of the Dance Directors is to implement the artistic program. They are responsible for the artistic administration of their respective group under the direction of the Program Director. In addition, they are responsible for the proper conduct of the dancers and implementation of the over-all dance program.

The greatest way to teach is by example. The prime ingredient, therefore, for Dance Directors and Sponsors in their leadership role is to set the example. Our young dancers, bound by the same code of behavior, will respond more fully when they understand that Christian behavior is not only beautiful but can be lived and maintained.

Assistants: Assist Dance Directors with any assigned tasks including teaching steps, music preparation, and supporting the sponsors. These may be High School aged interns who are in training for becoming Directors after Graduation. No high school student may hold a practice without an adult Dance Program Director or Sponsor present at all times.

Primary Sponsors: The Sponsors are responsible for tracking all of the required paperwork from each dance group and providing status reports to the Program Director for any delinquent paperwork or tuition. They assist with the logistics of the dance program in each respective group. Their primary responsibility is to assist the Dance Director of each group. In addition, they maintain and carry the records, undertake the leadership in fundraising projects and assist in supervision of the dancers during rehearsals and performances. They may assist with any disciplinary measures, as appropriate, if requested by the Dance Director. The Sponsor or a substitute **must** be at each practice. The Sponsors will be selected by the group's Dance Director and approved by the Program Director and Pastor.

Assistant Sponsors: Assist Primary Sponsor with projects and duties as needed.

Parents: Will assist dancers in attending Church, Sunday school, youth activities and dance practices. They shall also be active stewardship members of Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church.

Dancers: All Dancers will be a part of the active Youth Ministry Program, attend Sunday school, and will attend Church on a regular basis. Each dancer will be involved with JOY, or GOYA

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance Dance Groups

Dance Groups: The groups within the program will be established by the academic grade of the participants. There will be no advancement or retention of dancers based on ability, talent, coordination, interest or “maturity”. In order to offer a consistent and positive program, dancers will be divided in the following groups:

Kindergarten, 1st & 2nd Grades

3rd, 4th, & 5th Grades

6th, 7th, & 8th Grades

9th, 10th, 11th, & 12th Grades

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance Tuition Schedule

Tuition: The Saint Anna Dance Program Tuition will be \$35.00 per child.

Please Note: Tuition is not prorated based on when the dancer(s) join the program.

All required paperwork and checks must be turned in to your Sponsor(s).

Registration paperwork is due upon enrollment. For safety, no dancer may participate until emergency numbers are on file.

Please make checks payable to: *St. Anna Greek Orthodox Church*
Memo: Dance Program

Payment for the 2017-2018 Dance Program is due when the dancers begin the year, no later than **October 29, 2017**.

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance General Rules

1. Dancers will be on time to each rehearsal and ready to “stretch-out” under the guidance of the Dance Director as well as be attentive to the dance instructions. Dancers are not to enter the classroom/gym area prior to 12:30 PM.
2. Dancers will be at least the age of 5, except upon special arrangement with the Program Director.
3. Dancers will have all of the following required forms signed and turned into their Sponsors by their first practice:
 1. Registration Form
 2. Liability/Release Form
 3. Handbook receipt/Stewardship commitment acknowledgement form
4. Tuition will be paid in full by date indicated in tuition section.
5. A First Aid Box will be available in the Fellowship Hall.
6. All dance families must be members in good standing of Saint Anna Greek Orthodox Church with a current stewardship on file or have a letter from their Parish priest if members of another Parish.
7. Dancers shall be selected for a role in performances by the Dance Director based on attendance, best use of their abilities, and the needs of their dance group.
8. Gratuities received during a performance shall go towards the general fund.
9. Dance Directors shall consult with the Program Director before initiating any undesignated procedures.
10. Dancers are not free to commit to a performance.
The Pastor must approve all dance performances.
11. Sponsors shall be at all rehearsals and stay at rehearsals until the last dancer has left.
Parents, please be courteous and be on time.
12. Sponsors shall be at all performances.

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance General Rules Continued

Discipline: The following are rules for discipline, and will be documented by the Sponsors. (i.e., name, date, nature of incident)

1st Demerit – Warning issued to dancer

2nd Demerit – Dancer will have a 10 minute sit-out

3rd Demerit - Dancer will have a 20 minute sit-out. Parent(s) will be notified.

4th Demerit – Dancer will be excluded from next performance pending conference with Pastor and parent(s).

5th Demerit - Dancer will be suspended from group pending conference with Pastor and parent(s).

Note: Demerits will not be carried over from one meeting to the next. A written record showing all demerits will be maintained for reference and evaluation.

Attendance: If unable to attend rehearsal, **Dancer will contact Dance Director or Sponsor via phone call, email or text message PRIOR to the start of The Divine Liturgy.** Your Dance Director and Sponsor will advise of the best method of contact. Contact information will be provided.

Excessive Absences may result in:

- Not being able to perform in the next performance, or
- Dismissal from the group

Dress Code/Costumes

Rehearsals – For regular rehearsals appropriate attire is required for both boys and girls.

- Modest clothing without explicit or inappropriate messages
- Proper shoes must be worn. (No open toed, flip-flops, or anything that will fly off)
- No black soled dress shoes on gym floor
- No baseball caps, hats, or other activity uniforms that may distract or constrict movement

Costumes – Program Director and/or Dance Director will select the costume(s) to be worn and advise of any required personal items. It is the responsibility of each Dancer to wear appropriate deodorant, and be clean and free of excessive bodily odors when wearing costumes. In addition dancers will be asked to wear;

- White undershirts, tank tops
- Appropriate socks, tights

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance Practice Schedules

Closed Practices: We will hold closed practices in order to provide the best teaching environment for all of the dancers. Please drop-off and pick-up your dancers outside of rehearsal in the designated sign in/out spot as quickly as possible. This helps to decrease the distractions during practice as well as increases the amount of practice time and creates an atmosphere more conducive to teaching and learning. Their group's Dance Director(s) and Sponsor, who will have your contact information on file, will supervise your dancer(s). No siblings are allowed to "hang out" during practices.

There is a parent area in the Fellowship Hall that is available for siblings and parents to gather, do homework, and await the end of the lesson.

Please be on time for practice and pick-up. Late arrivals disrupt the lesson and impacts the other dancers and Dance Director(s).

Special Practice Schedules: Prior to upcoming performances Dance Directors may request additional practices. Your Sponsor or Dance Director will alert you about any additional practices.

No Practice: Please check the calendar for special observances when we will not be practicing.

Practice Schedule:

| | | | |
|----------------|-------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| Sunday: | K-2 | 12:30- 1:00 pm | - Classroom |
| | 3-5 | 12:30- 1:15 pm | - Classroom |
| | 6-8 | 12:30- 1:30 pm | - Classroom |
| | 9-12 | 12:30 - 1:30 pm | - Gym |

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance A Note to Parents

Our young dancers are at an age where they are both sensitive and self-conscious. The presence of parents, friends or others during rehearsals adds a dimension of stress, which is neither productive nor beneficial to them. Therefore, the presence of others during rehearsal will be strictly prohibited. Please do not ask if grandparents, out of town friends, or other relatives can attend. The policy must be consistent for all.

The dance groups are like a team with every dancer playing a part based on their strengths. Please allow Dance Directors to place dancers where it will best support the team/group. Throughout the year Dance Directors make an effort to give each dancer an opportunity to perform in different positions such as leading or holding the end. Parent special requests place undue stress on the Dance Directors and only serve to compromise the Group for the benefit of an individual dancer.

Please be on time for drop-off and pick up.

Dancers grow! Frequently check on the comfort and condition of your dancer's shoes. Ask around- someone may have gently worn dance shoes that they grew out of!

**St. Anna Greek Folk Dance
Committees/ Showcases**

Costume Committee:

The Dance Directors and Sponsors are responsible for coordinating, costumes with the Program Director.
Volunteers needed: Costume Coordinator

APOKREAS/ Mardi Gras

On Saturday, February 10, 2018, we will showcase our dancers' talent for the Saint Anna Community.

Diakonia (Service, Outreach Projects)

As an integral part of our program, we believe in teaching the importance of assisting those in need.
Performances will be scheduled at Senior Care Centers. Dates will be announced at a later date.

St. Anna Name Day Picnic

To help in the celebration of our Parish Name Day, the dancers will showcase their talents at the parish picnic in July. We encourage every dancer to invite friends and family to this fun event to see them show off what they have learned.

Note:

Other performance opportunities will be announced and scheduled as they become available.

St. Anna Greek Folk Dance Important Dates (subject to change)

Oct. 1 - Start of Dance Program - Registration and welcome meeting

Oct. 8 - Start of Dance Practices

Oct. 29-Dance Registration Fees Due

Oct. 29- Report of Dance Lists due to Saint Anna Office for verification of eligibility

Nov. 26- Sunday after Thanksgiving-No Dance

Dec. 24- No Dance

Feb. 10- APOKREAS - Mardi Graz (Dance Showcase)

Feb. 19 – Dance Ministry Activity (all dance groups)

1st Week of Lent- No Dance

April 15 - Practice Resumes

July 22nd or 29th St Anna's Name Day Picnic (Dance Showcase)

Aug. - Sept. No Practices