



G R E E K O R T H O D O X C A T H E D R A L O F T H E A S C E N S I O N

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EXCUSED ABSENCE LETTER DUE TO EASTERN ORTHODOX GOOD FRIDAY OBSERVANCE

To: All Teachers and School Administrators
From: Rev. Father. Thomas J. Zaferes

To whom it may concern,

The Eastern Orthodox Church quite often celebrates Easter on a different Sunday than Western Churches. This celebration can fall one week, or in some instances several weeks afterward.

Of course, this necessarily means our Good Friday is also celebrated on a different date. For example, for the present ecclesiastical year of 2023, Eastern Orthodox Good Friday falls on Friday, April 14th. This is an important event in the life of our faith and culture.

In our religious and cultural tradition Good Friday is a day that all Orthodox Christians are obligated to attend church services which begin in the morning, extend through the afternoon and continue into the evening.

We therefore request that you excuse the absence of the Orthodox Christian student that attends your school and bears this letter, for Eastern Orthodox Good Friday which falls this year on April 14th.

Our children and their families appreciate your respect and support in this matter.

Most respectfully,

Rev. Fr. Thomas J. Zaferes, Presiding Priest
Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Ascension

REV. FR. THOMAS J. ZAFERES

GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA / DIOCESE OF SAN FRANCISCO