

# The Grecian Odyssey Folk Dance Group

– A Ministry of St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Christian Church

The primary goal and purpose of our folk dance group is NOT just to teach our young people how to dance – to lead and follow Greek dances from various parts of Greece. The primary goal and purpose of our folk dance group, as a ministry of the Greek Orthodox Christian Church, is to teach our young people how to lead a good, solid Christian life, following the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ as taught by the Orthodox Christian faith.

Our dance group should be a safe place, both physically and emotionally, where young people can safely make mistakes while they learn to walk confidently in step with our Lord's teachings, joyfully with one another. We expect the highest standards - not just of dance performance - but of behavior as children of God.

We are asking all of our parents and children to join us in this endeavor. We are developing a Covenant of Behavior, one for parents and another for our children. We ask for your personal commitment and mutual accountability. Regular attendance is required not just for dance practices, but for Sunday Church services, Sunday Catechetical School, GOYA meetings and retreats, and service at our many events, especially and including our annual Greek Festival. Additionally, we encourage participation in our choir for all children and parents, for our young men 12 and over to serve as acolytes during the Sunday Divine Liturgy, as well as in our Greek School.

We are all imperfect. When we fall short of God's perfection (amartia – miss the mark), with all humility we need to acknowledge that we are fallen, fleshly human beings, seek forgiveness from God and others, and then seek to do better going forward, seeking to grow in Christ's likeness. When we see someone miss the mark, then with love and humility, we need to share that with them, encouraging them to do better going forward to God's Kingdom.

Though we certainly hope to teach our children about the richness of the many folk dances, music, costumes and traditions that derive from the many regions of Greece, of much greater import, is that we teach our children the many traditions of our Holy Church, and especially to know, to love and to walk closely with our Lord God and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Faithfully,  
+Fr. Demetri Tsigas

*God is Love. We are created in God's Image. We were created to love.  
Imperfect people in a fallen world serving a Perfect and Holy God.*