



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



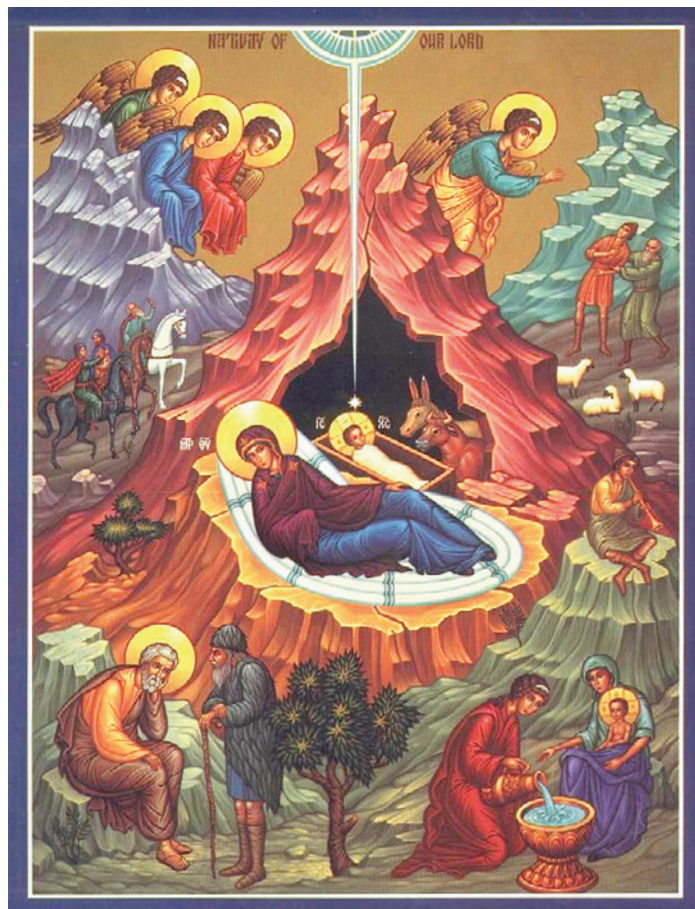
245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 · 415 864-8000 · FAX 415 431-5860 · WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG

DECEMBER 2018

Christmas is All About Christ

It seems obvious, doesn't it: there is no Christmas without Christ. As we busy ourselves this month, buying gifts, attending "holiday" parties, tallying up our income and expenses for the year so as to prepare for the ensuing tax year, let's pause and give thought to reality, the reality around us, the reality we are called to, as people of faith. On the one hand, the worst fires in the history of our State having been raging all month, leaving thousands without homes, not to mention those who have died. Homelessness is another reminder of human suffering and of disparity between the haves and the have nots. The most recent year for which we have statistics, 2017, indicates California alone had 118,142 homeless people, which accounts for 22% of the nation's homeless population. Of these, 78,390 people were unsheltered, the highest rate of unsheltered people, at 66.4%. And, there is no sign of an abatement of natural disasters, nor of social disasters. More importantly, there is no sign of an abatement of hopelessness, which has been characterized as an epidemic of our time. Sadness, worthlessness, hopelessness describe a growing number of the population, affecting those with means as well as those without. God knows the human condition and, at just the right time, some 2,000 years ago, gave us a Savior. He sent us His Son—Jesus Christ—to give us hope and joy, to renew in us a sense of worth and of joy. We know of no more powerful message than this, a message addressed to the human family in our time and for all time.

Echoing the timelessness of this message of joy and of hope, the Church provides us with a visual of the significance of the event of the birth of Christ. The visual is an icon. An icon is not a photograph, but a reflection, gleaned from Scripture and from the Tradition of the Church. Let us, therefore, look at the icon. Notice all the craggy hills, as a background. The background is an inhospitable world, the world as it has been since the expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise. In the center is Mary, the Bearer of God (this is what the term "Theotokos" means). She is central, resting in a cave, and Jesus, as a baby, is portrayed lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. These represent the submission of Christ to various strictures governing the human race. The earth, as the appropriate hymn puts it, provides the cave. The animals watch in wonder. The manger is not only the feeding trough for the animals; it looks ahead to the grave which will contain him, wrapped in a burial shroud. Notice the star overhead. It guided the Magi to the cave, but it also represents the light from heaven, pointing to Christ as the Savior. As stated in the Christmas troparion, by the star, "those who worshiped the stars [the Magi] were taught to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as

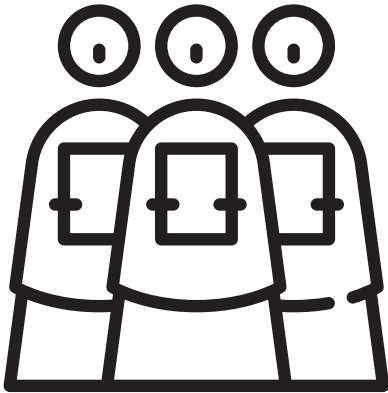


the East [whence the sun rises] but on high." The women at the bottom are midwives, indicating that Jesus came into the world as any child would, "born of a woman," (Galatians 4:4). Now, look closely at Mary. She looks at Joseph as if trying to overcome his doubts and temptations, represented by the old man speaking to Joseph. Meanwhile, the truth comes from the Virgin. Although she is not the most important figure in the icon, she is the most dominant. She is, after all, the new Ark of the Covenant, the vehicle through which God enters human history, in the flesh. The angels, meanwhile, are glorifying God, announcing the Good News to the shepherds.

The icon is meant to lift us up. To have hope and to believe. To dispel doubt and fear. To see that our journey is, in the end, not about ourselves. It is about reaching out to others, especially to others who suffer, to those who have given up hope. Christians are invited, especially at Christmas, to put Christ back into Christmas, to proclaim the message: Χριστός γεννᾶται, δοξάσατε! Christ is born: give glory!

We want to Say “Thank You-Ευχαριστώ” For Your Stewardship. We also want to say how important it is for you, as the Church, to support the Work of the Church

Earlier in November parishioners should have received a letter thanking them for their 2018 Stewardship or, if they haven't pledged in 2018, a letter saying how important they are as a part of the community, and, therefore, how vital their support is. On November 15, Stewardship packets were mailed to all 800 plus individuals and families who comprise the Cathedral community. The packets contain: 1) a Stewardship pledge card for 2019, 2) a return envelope, and 3) a brochure with additional information about Stewardship. (What stewardship is, why it is important for Orthodox Christians to support the work of the Church through stewardship, and so on.) Parishioners are asked to make their support for 2019 a priority, by completing and returning their 2019 Stewardship pledge card prior to the end of December. In this way, the Parish Council will know what it can count on, as it prepares the Budget for 2019, especially at this critical time of construction. We can't thank you enough for your continued support.



Choir News

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.” Colossians 3:16. Your Annunciation Cathedral Choir is a ministry which supports our congregation at the Sunday liturgy. The Orthodox Christian Divine Liturgy is unique, as the entire service involves a dialogue between the Priest and the people, represented by the choir. The more you participate in and understand this dialogue, the more enriching your spiritual experience in the weekly Eucharistic “celebration.” We welcome those who are interested in serving in this essential ministry. No experience is necessary, but musical experience, a good “ear,” and enthusiasm is a plus. We start at 10:15 each Sunday morning and usually finish about noon. For more information, contact the Cathedral Music Director, **Nick Tarlson at 415-956-5700 or nick@tarlson.com**.

Καί τά λοιπά = Etc., i.e. Dis ‘n Dat

Valencia Street Changes, Once Again

A number of changes are scheduled for portion of Valencia Street, from Market to 15th Streets, which will definitely impact our parking. Recently, we met with representatives of the Bike Coalition and also with representatives of the SFMTA, to discuss the impact. Representatives of Friends School, which is housed in the old Levi's Building, as well as of the Millennium School, which is domiciled, here, also participated in the meeting, as the decision impacts them, as well. Essentially, the City, at the direction of Mayor London Breed, was directed to come up with a plan addressing the issue of safety. The plan, which we are told, is a pilot plan, essentially consists of moving the bike lanes in both directions, north and south, towards the curb, and creating parking just outside that lane and the traffic lane. Special loading zones (yellow zones) are planned for either side of Valencia Street.

Meanwhile, the Cathedral's white zone was extended, in November, to include the entrance to the new Cathedral. (The area in front of the present entrance, which also serves the School, is reserved in the morning and at dismissal for drop off and pickup, while the area in front of the new Cathedral may be held during church services—this is already in place, as of this writing.) However, the median is being eliminated, so we will no longer be able to park there on Sundays. All this argues in favor of facilitating the opening of our parking structure, which we are planning to do. We have worked out a plan to enlist the services of our valet company, which handles our Sunday parking, to include temporary utilization of our lot during the week. (This, obviously, has to be approved by the City.) People won't be able to drive down the ramp and into the garage, during this period, as we have to install the gates, finish the low wall, and finalize the lobbies and the elevator, creating “a clear path of travel.” All this for approximately \$300,000, which we simply don't have at this time.

The parking plan with the attended service, which will run for a six-month trial period, will commence as soon as practically feasible, if and when the City gives us the green light, while we find our way to resume creating a “clear path of travel,” as a condition for permission to use our parking component fully in accordance with the Conditional Use Permit, which was granted to us back in January. The point of all this is to find the proper balance between safety for cyclists and motorists alike and also the need for vehicles to park, and vehicles to load and unload. Work on Valencia Street is said to commence late in December 2018 or early January 2019. Meanwhile, the Cathedral hosted a meeting of neighbors, on November 14.

The meeting was facilitated by the SFMTA. A healthy exchange took place. The City agency had an opportunity to hear the views of those who will be affected by the changes, and the neighbors had the opportunity to hear, in detail, the plans the City has to serve pedestrians, bikers, and people who park, in the immediate future, and for the long term.



Community Christmas Card

It's only October, but not too early to think about the Cathedral's Community Christmas Card. Mailed to over 1000 families, the card includes your greetings for a Blessed Christmas and a joyous, peaceful New Year to them, and beyond. And, it is an additional means of support to the Cathedral's ministries. The donation remains \$25 per listing. For a number of years, our "Christmas card elves" included Kalliope Fousekis, Annette Chiappari and Annamarie Balian (together with husband Robert). Though the first two are recuperating (and we pray for the restoration of their good health), they join Annamarie (at least in spirit), at the Christmas Card table located outside the pangari, on the way to coffee hour. The table will be set up for the entire month of November. Meanwhile, if you are unable to come to church and would still like to be included in the card, you may let them know, by e mail. For Annamarie, it's baliana@aol.com. For Kalliope, it's kallopef@aol.com. And, for Annette, it's Annette.chiappari@yahoo.com. You may also phone the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000.

Amazon Smile

A lot of us buy books, household items, and what-have-you on Amazon. If you sign up, at no cost to you, Amazon will make a contribution, based on your purchases, to the Annunciation Cathedral. If you have not already done so, visit smile.amazon.com to enroll. It's as simple as that. Make sure you log on to Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon and tell them Annunciation Cathedral is your charity of choice. This is especially helpful as you make purchases on Amazon.com for the Christmas holidays. Thank you and God bless you.

100

As everyone has been busy preparing for our festival, plans for our 100th anniversary celebrations took a back seat. Now that the festival is behind us, we will be designating meeting dates, inviting the entire community to participate in what should be first-rate celebrations marking the establishment of this historic community. Just to reiterate, 2021 will mark the Cathedral's 100th anniversary. 100 years since the Cathedral and the Diocese (now Metropolis) was established by Meletios Metaxakis (along with the then Dioceses of Chicago and Boston, and the Archdiocese, which is headquartered in New York). Originally, our Cathedral was named St. Sophia and was located at Hayes and Pierce Streets, right across from San Francisco's famed Alamo Square. In 1928, the Cathedral, however, the community relocated to Valencia Street, in large part because the Valencia Street site was more accessible. It was renamed "Annunciation," in 1936. (Its corporate name is United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco, The Annunciation.) As noted, we are initially planning to print a commemorative book, as well as a "100th anniversary weekend," culminating in a grand gala event. Jim Loukas, who heads the Commemorative Book Committee, is in the process of gathering photographs and information, from both parishioners and the community at large, for inclusion in the book. In the process, Jim found and has forwarded a photograph of our Greek School in 1950, which we've reproduced on the back page of the present issue. Additional information about this effort, as well as 100th anniversary events in general, culminating in grand gala event, will be forthcoming.



Introduction to Orthodoxy Introduction to Orthodoxy" Class Welcomes New Members to the Faith

The new Annunciation cathedral recalls the beauty and majesty of other churches more than a millennium old, such as Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Those who have been fortunate enough to witness its construction know that, like those older churches, it is being built to last, and one can imagine it serving

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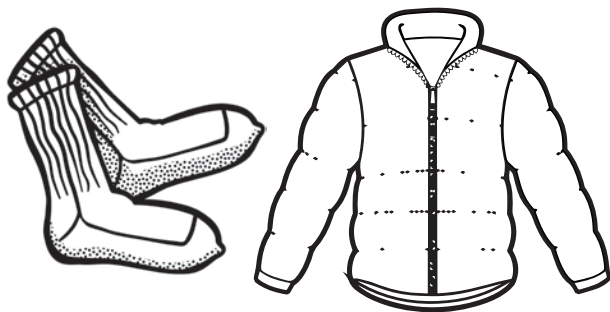
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the needs of the faithful, God willing, centuries from now. The building is an impressive, outward sign of our community's conscious outreach to the city and the world. By building a sanctuary for God, we are simultaneously expressing a gesture of welcome to all future generations of Orthodox Christians.

Some of them will be born into our families, while others will marry into the faith. Still others will come to us simply because they are astounded by the beauty of our worship, the richness of our theological traditions, and our special emphasis on the mystery of our intimate encounter with God. Whether future parishioners are drawn into the fold by love for its members, for their resilient, ancient faith, or by a mixture of the two, we must continue to be prepared to accommodate incoming Orthodox Christians of every background.

The Cathedral's "Introduction to Orthodoxy" class aims to facilitate the spiritual journey of those considering joining our Church. We prepare adult inquirers for their baptisms and chrismations, and we explore the richness of our faith through discussion of Holy Scripture, the theology of the Church Fathers, and the lives of the Saints. The goal of the course is to provide people with acculturation in the Church prior to their becoming full members in it.

The class meets two times a week. The meetings take place in the Cathedral's conference room, locate on the second floor, adjacent the elevator. The times are 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. In December, the class will meet on Sunday, December 2 and on Sunday, December 16.



Sock Drive/Coat Drive

Our Young Adults, in tandem with our Ladies Philoptochos, is conducting sock drive for the month of November and a coat drive for the month of December. The items will be given out to our guests who come to Community Kitchen, now that we are entering the colder months. The November Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, November 20, and the December Community Kitchen will take place Tuesday, December 18. The coats may be gently used or new. Adult sizes only, please. While the socks for December may be left at the pangari, the coats should be left in the front office. The office is the first room on your right, as you enter the building, off Valencia Street and, of course, the pangari is the vestibule, as we enter the chapel, for worship. Thank you. Our guests, especially those living on the streets, will be grateful.



Season's Greetings to All,
During the holiday season our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have supported and embraced our Philoptochos society.

It has been a very busy year. With your help, we have reached out to over twenty-five charities and ministries from the National, Metropolis and local levels including: The Mission – our neighborhood and fulfilling our obligation and commitments to our Cathedral. We have donated over \$67,000 in both monetary, clothing and disaster supplies to those in need in 2018. It is with humble grace and gratitude that I thank everyone of you for your philanthropic support. Just think of what we can do in 2019 with your membership pledge, donation, contribution and time!

On behalf of the San Francisco Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos and board members, we wish you a Merry Christmas filled with peace, love and God's blessings.

In Christ's love, Janis Petrou, President



There's Still Time!

Order your official Annunciation Cathedral Christmas Ornament today!

The Ladies Philoptochos is proud to sponsor the sale of the official Annunciation Cathedral Christmas Ornament. This is an etched depiction of the new cathedral and is a limited edition 24k gold plate on brass ornament. Proceeds from the sale of the ornament go to the building fund.

Ornaments will be sold after church through December 16. Consider ordering one or several ornaments for your own Christmas tree, or as gifts. Each ornament will be accompanied by a certificate of authenticity. Please contact Philoptochos at 415-864-8000 or philoptochos@annunciation.org to order your ornament and get more information.

Philoptochos Christmas Pastry Sale – Order and Pickup Reminder:

Last day to order is now December 7. Orders must be picked up on Sunday, December 16 after Church Services – this will be the ONLY day to pick up your orders.



Philoptochos Christmas Pastry Sale

This is a special bake sale to raise funds for the many charities and ministries that our San Francisco Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos supports. We will be selling our delicious homemade pastries boxed and ready to go.

Combo Box

Quantity (10 Piece): _____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____
(Includes 4 Baklava, 3 Kourabiedes, 3 Melomakarona)

Baklava

Quantity (1/2 Dozen): _____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____

Melomakarona

Quantity (1 Dozen): _____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____

Kourabiedes

Quantity (1 Dozen): _____ X \$20.00 = \$ _____

Traditional Koulourakia

Quantity (1 Dozen): _____ X \$10.00 = \$ _____

Vanilla & Chocolate Koulourakia

Quantity (1 Dozen): _____ X \$15.00 = \$ _____

Total Quantity: _____ **Total Amount:** \$ _____

LAST DAY TO ORDER: Sunday, December 2nd

ORDER PICKUPS: Only on Sunday, December 16th after Church Services

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Check Order: Make check payable to Annunciation Philoptochos

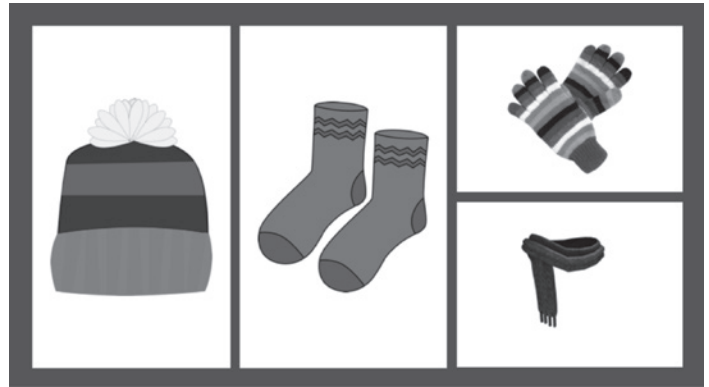
Credit Card Order: CC # _____ Exp: _____

Mail your order form with your **check** or **credit card** information to the address below:

Annunciation Philoptochos
245 Valencia Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Any questions, please call the Philoptochos Office @ 415.864.8000

*Troparion of the Nativity: Tone 4:
Thy Nativity, O Christ our God, has
shone upon the world with the light of
knowledge. For, thereby, they who adored
the stars through a star were taught to
worship Thee, the Sun of Righteous-
ness, and to know Thee the Dayspring
from on high. O Lord, Glory to Thee.*



Socks, Hats, Scarves & Gloves Drive

Ladies Philoptochos will be collecting warm weather goods (socks, hats, scarves and gloves) to be given to our guests who come to our Community Kitchen on December 18. Young Adults will continue collecting coats to also be handed out during the December Community Kitchen. Please leave the socks, hats, scarves and gloves in the pangari but the coats need to be left in the office. Thank you for your generosity especially around the holidays and this will help our guests stay warm during the cold months, especially those living on the streets.

2019 Vasilopita Order Form



Ring in the New Year with our delicious Traditional Vasilopita!

Order by Sunday, December 23rd
Pick-up Sunday, December 30th after
Divine Liturgy – 1:30 pm
\$20.00 Each

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Vasilopitas: _____

Please make check payable to Annunciation Philoptochos and mail to:

Annunciation Cathedral
Attn. Philoptochos
245 Valencia St
San Francisco, CA 94103

The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos
Society presents its:

Annual Crab Feed

Friday, January 25, 2019

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:00 p.m.



\$60.00 per person

Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment

Valet Parking or
Parking lot available at:
344 14th Street, S. F., 94103

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) and/or _____ table(s)

Total Amount enclosed: _____

(Maximum 10 people per table. Include the names of all guests to
be seated at the table)

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos,
Please mail completed reservation form and check by January 15th to:
Annunciation Cathedral: 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103
For additional Information and Reservations, please call 415.864.8000
or email Sophia Makras at annunciation2019crabfeed@gmail.com

Annunciation Philoptochos Vasilopita Brunch



Please bring your family & friends and join us as we celebrate the New Year with our Annunciation family at this year's

2019 VASILOPITA Brunch!

Sunday, January 6, 2019 - Following the Divine Liturgy

Ticket Cost - \$20.00

Reservation forms will be located in the Narthex

Thank you to Connie Panagotacos for her Festival contribution

This year's Festival Book inadvertently omitted the contribution made to it by Connie Panagotacos. Accordingly, the Festival Committee is expressing, at this time, its deep appreciation to Connie Panagotacos for her donation of six cases of Olive Oil, as well as olives, which were served at our successful, 2018 Annunciation Food Festival. The Festival Ad Book Committee regrets this generous donation was not noted in the 2018 Festival Ad Book.



Tikey Zes to Lead Benefit Concert (Once Again, Save the Date)

It's confirmed! March 23 (Annunciation weekend) has been selected as the date for a concert to be directed by Maestro Tikey Zes, to benefit the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund. The concert is actually Dr. Zes' idea. He's discussed it with key members of his group of singers, and they are all eager to perform songs both liturgical and secular. We are grateful to him, both for the initiative and because, some years ago, he was Annunciation's choirmaster. As we know, Dr. Zes is professor emeritus of music at San Jose State University and continues to lead the choir at the St. Nicholas Church in San Jose. The concert is scheduled to take place at 4:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 23. Please "save the date." Additional information is forthcoming.

*Kontakion of the Nativity: Tone 3:
Today the Virgin gives birth to Him
who is above all being, and the earth
offers a cave to Him whom no man
can approach. Angels with shep-
herds give glory, and Magi journey
with a star. For unto us is born a
young Child, the pre-eternal God.*

Save The
Date

San Francisco Annunciation
Cathedral Philoptochos Ladies
Christmas Lunch

Members and Guests

Friday December 7, 2018

Nick's at Rockaway Beach
100 Rockaway Beach Ave, Pacifica, CA 94044

Details to follow!

If interested in attending the San Francisco
Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos
Ladies Christmas Lunch, please contact
Kathy Dermitzakis at creta2000@aol.com



Creation Care Toolkit

As noted, the Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has launched a Creation Care Toolkit with the goal of helping individuals and parishes take immediate action to care for God's Creation. The Toolkit, as announced by His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America in his Encyclical for September 1st, as well as by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, is available now at www.goarch.org/en/society/ecology.

In his most recent encyclical for the Feast of Indiction and the Day of Protection of the Environment, His All-Holiness Ecumenical Bartholomew writes, "The ecological culture of the Orthodox faith is the realization of its Eucharistic vision of creation, summarized and expressed in its church life and practice. This is the Orthodox Church's eternal message on the issue of ecology. ... Adhering to this tradition, the Mother Church calls upon its Archdioceses and Metropolises, as well as its parishes and monasteries throughout the world, to develop initiatives, coordinate projects, organize conferences and activities that foster environmental awareness and sensitivity, so that our faithful may realize that the protection of the natural environment is the spiritual responsibility of each and every one of us." The Creation Care Toolkit offers easy to find Sunday School lesson plans, videos, articles, vespers service and more. These resources have been designed for use by the parishes and communities to begin their own Creation Care activities. For more information please contact the Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations at 212.570.3593.

Ἀπολυτίκον τῶν Χριστουγέννων:
Ἡ γέννησίς σου, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός
ἡμῶν, ἀνέτειλε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ φῶς τὸ
τῆς γνώσεως. Ἐν αὐτῇ γὰρ οἱ τοῖς
ἄστροις λατρεύοντες ὑπὸ ἄστέρος
ἐδιδάσκοντο, σὲ προσκυνεῖν τὸν Ἥλιον
τῆς Δικαιοσύνης, καὶ σὲ γινύσκειν
ἐξ ὕψους ἀνατολήν. Κύριε, δόξα σοι.



alzheimer's  association®

Dementia Caregiver Support Group News

Please join us for our Dementia Caregiver Support Group at the Cathedral. We are proud to partner with and host the Alzheimer's Association monthly support group meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 11am-12:30pm. Our first group met on Tuesday October 2, in the Cathedral's conference room, which is located on the second floor, to right of the elevator. The December meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 4. Families providing care and support to a loved one diagnosed with a dementia and/or have concerns regarding their loved one's memory are welcome to attend. Space, however, is limited. For more information, please contact Heather Gray, Family Program Manager, at 1.800.272.3900 or email her at hgray1@alz.org.



Metropolis staff at Father Stephen's birthday party on November 1st. Shown with the staff is Bishop Apostolos of Medeia. Bishop Apostolos served in the Metropolis of San Francisco, in the capacity of Chancellor. Recently, he was named Chief Secretary of the Holy Eparchial Synod of our Archdiocese of America, headquartered in New York. He took up his new duties on November 15. The Cathedral extends best wishes to him as he continues to serve the Archdiocese in this new capacity.



A New Young Adult Resource: The Y2AM Ministry Plan

A new version of the Youth Ministry plan, for the 2018-19 ministry year, has been announced by the Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

This Ministry Plan is a comprehensive set of youth and young adult resources to help ministry workers lead effective, Christ-centered ministry. It takes the ministry insights behind successful programs like Be the Bee and turns them into a clear, easy to follow plan.

This year's theme is "A Life of Offering", and is designed to help young people offer their lives to God as faithful Orthodox Christians. The Y2AM Ministry Plan gives week-by-week guidance for the upcoming ministry year (September 2018 - May 2019). It includes carefully designed resources for JOY (grades 3-6), GOYA (grades 7-12), and OCF/Young Adult Ministry. The Y2AM Ministry Plan also offers a Family Supplement to help parents build faithful homes.

"Too many youth and young adult workers are stretched thin, expected to both design and lead effective ministry. That's why so many people were excited when we launched the Y2AM Ministry Plan last summer. And they're going to love the new version we've made for the new year," said Steven Christoforou, Director of Y2AM.

Feedback has been incredibly positive so far. Eva Konstantakos, Director of Y2AM Detroit, said that the Ministry Plan "supports ministry workers with a complete curriculum, thoughtful sessions and activities for all ages, which we can utilize throughout the ecclesiastical year. The Y2AM Ministry Plan helps to bring youth, young adults, and families into a deeper relationship with Christ on their journey toward the Kingdom."

The Y2AM Ministry Plan can be accessed at y2am.org/MinistryPlan as a free download.

For more information please contact the Department at 646.519.6780 or by email at y2am@goarch.org



Community Kitchen

The Cathedral's Community Kitchen, which began under the name "Soup Kitchen," operates the third Tuesday of every month. The volunteer work involves food prep, cooking, hall setup, serving the meal and—so important—cleanup. We also have a food pantry, so a few awesome volunteers come early to bag up canned/non-perishable goods for our guests to take with them. Some volunteers arrive earlier, but the typical timeframe is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Shown above are just some of our Young Adults, who spearhead the Community Kitchen ministry. Won't you join them? Following each Community Kitchen, after cleanup, the Young Adults gather in the second-floor conference room for wine and cheese. They get to know one another better. They welcome new members. They address topical issues. And, of course, they plan for the following month's Community Kitchen. In November, the Young Adults teamed up with the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos for a Thanksgiving feast! This month, Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, December 18. Our guests count on us to provide them with a hot meal, and fellowship. May we, in turn, count on you? Once again, that's Tuesday, December 18, 5:30 p.m. for set up and 6:30 p.m. for serving.



Some 100 guests come to the Cathedral's Community Kitchen, to be fed, to get out of the cold, to feel acceptance and warmth by people who care. The Cathedral, through its Young Adults, is honored to be able to host this event the third Tuesday of every month.

Parish Council MEETING



There are Eleven (11) Running for Parish Council

The following individuals are running for Parish Council. Their names were either placed in nomination at the October 28, 2018 Parish Assembly, or else they are self-declared. The eleven are: George Ambadiotakis Ambus, D.D.S., Peter (Panagiotis) Cazanis, Alexandros Kozak, Christopher Kyriacou, Esq., John Lampros, Vassiliki Moulas, Dean Nicolacakis, Manoli Nuris, James (Jim) Rakos, Christopher (Chris) Ramos, and Nick Rally. Currently, there are seven places on the Parish Council, for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2019. In order to become a candidate, you need to have been a Steward of the Cathedral for at least one year prior to the elections, and also attend a mandatory seminar. The seminar took place on Sunday, November 11. Elections will take place on December 16. Once ratified, the new members of the Parish Council will receive the oath of office on Sunday, January 6, 2019 and immediately thereafter convene to elect officers for the year. Additionally, they will take on the responsibility of heading one or more Parish Council committees. The committees are as follows: Meeting agenda (compiled by the President), Meeting minutes (compiled by the Secretary), Treasurer's reports (compiled by the Treasurer), Stewardship, Technology, Estate Planning, Protocol, Youth, School Relations (relations with Millennium School, S.F. Waldorf High School), Buildings and Grounds, Capital Campaign/Fund Raising, Construction Liaison, Education Committee (Greek School, Sunday School), Hall Management/Rentals, and City and State relations (Assembly and other permits, Business License, Secretary of State filings, White Zone, Regulatory Matters). That's 15 Committees. Meanwhile, the Executive committee (Parish Council Officers, as a committee of the whole) will have oversight of office and personnel matters, as well construction matters.

*The Lord said unto my Lord:
Sit Thou at My right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy
footstool (Psalm 109:1)*

*The Lord shall send Thee a rod of
strength out of Zion (Psalm 109:2)*

GOYA News

Get Ready for Summer Camp (even as we are going ice skating, and helping at the Community Kitchen)

It's not too early to begin thinking about Summer Camp 2019. What a great Christmas gift, by the way. Start thinking about next summer, noting the dates provided below. Our Metropolis Summer Camp is open to campers ages 8-18 (campers entering 3rd grade in Fall 2019, or will be graduating High School in Spring 2019). Come and experience an incredible summer at St. Nicholas Ranch in Dunlap, CA with youth and young adults from across our Metropolis as we have a blast meeting new friends, reuniting with old friends, and learning more about our beautiful Orthodox faith!

Online registration will open January 1, 2019 at 9:00am PST at www.gosfyouth.org. Monthly payment plans are available, as this will help families spread out the cost for camp over 5 months. All payments are due in full by June 1, 2019. To register, a \$100 non-refundable deposit is required.

2019 SUMMER CAMP DATES

Staff Orientation Week: July 1 – 6

Session I: July 7 – 13

Session II: July 14 – 20

Session III: July 21 – 27

**Campers are limited to registering for only one session of camp*

2019 REGISTRATION FEES

\$525 Normal Registration (January 1 – January 31)

\$550 Late Registration (February 1 – May 31)

2019 STAFF APPLICATIONS

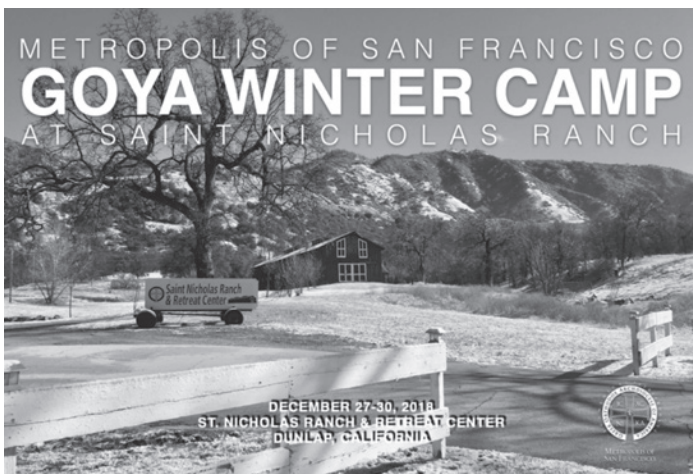
<http://gosfyouth.org/summer-camp/#/staff-applications/>

For more information, please contact Johanna Duterte, Director of Youth and Youth Adult Ministries, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Cell: (408) 712-7658. Email: JDuterte@sanfran-go-arch.org



Meanwhile, there's GOYA Winter Camp at St. Nicholas.

Take a look at the graphic, below. If you are interested in attending a winter camp at St. Nicholas, December 27-30, 2018, contact Johanna. If you have never attended summer camp at St. Nicholas, winter camp there will provide a great introduction to the place and what it has to offer. In addition, Sequoia National Park and Yosemite National Park are within easy driving distance from the Ranch. For more information, please contact Johanna Duterte, Director of Youth and Youth Adult Ministries, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. Cell: (408) 712-7658. Email: JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org



SCHOLARSHIPS

As college education becomes more and more expensive, funding becomes more and more of a challenge. We have been asked to announce that the PanHellenic Scholarship Foundation is offering a total of \$250,000 to 40 Greek American undergraduates. Twenty awards of \$10,000 will be given based on academic achievement and financial need, two of which are allocated solely for the Music and Arts fields. Twenty awards of \$2,500 will be awarded based solely on academic achievement. The application is available on the Foundation's web

site, www.panhellenicscholarship.org. Meanwhile, the Cathedral has a few scholarships, including the Bagatelos Scholarship, which is earmarked for those planning to become physicians, and the Vavuris Scholarships, which is earmarked for those planning to become attorneys. In addition, the Tsikitais, Pappas and Coundouris Scholarships have been offered intermittently, as income on these funds warrants bestowal of the scholarships. This is in addition to a Philoptochos Scholarship, given each year, and a Vellis Scholarship, given until the funds are exhausted, to individuals who participated in the Cathedral's Sunday School program. Additional information about the Cathedral scholarships, including an application, will appear in 2019 issues of the Herald.



The 14th Annual Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat will take place in Lake Tahoe, January 18-21, 2019!

Join us for this beautiful retreat, located on a private beach on the shore of Lake Tahoe with spectacular views, incredible food, and awesome accommodations! Not to mention, we have a weekend packed full of fun, faith, and fellowship with Orthodox young adults from all over the West Coast! This retreat will sell out with a max capacity of 60, so make sure to register beginning November 1, 2018!

DATE: January 18-21, 2019
 LOCATION: Galilee Episcopal Camp & Retreat Center, South Lake Tahoe
 ARRIVAL TIME: Friday beginning at 5:30pm
 DEPARTURE TIME: Monday 9:30am
 SPEAKER/THEME: Coming soon!
 AGES: 18-30's

ONLINE REGISTRATION Opens: November 1, 2018 at www.gosfyouth.org
 FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1943883609026865/>
 RETREAT VIDEO from 2016: <https://vimeo.com/153430756>

COST: \$260 includes 3 nights lodging (Fri, Sat, and Sun) and all meals except lunch Saturday & Sunday since we will be out exploring Lake Tahoe both afternoons. Price does not include lift ticket.

For additional information, please contact Johanna Duterte, Director of Youth and Youth Adult Ministries, Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103, Cell: (408) 712-7658, Email: JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org, Website: www.gosfyouth.org



Our Young Adults are becoming increasingly involved in the life of the Church. They are worshipping on Sundays and, after a number of years, are still hands on in charge of our Community Kitchen, which is held the third Tuesday of every month. Hardly a Sunday goes by when we don't welcome a new Young Adult or two. Some come from parishes clear across the country. Others are more local. Some come immediately upon arrival. Others do so after months of living in the City. Some scope us out, visiting other Bay Area churches, to determine if we're a good fit for them. Let's face it, different strokes for different folks. Some like more Greek in the Liturgy, others less. Still others are looking for a more "spiritual" or "engaging" parish. Others show up when they need a certificate of membership because they want to baptize someone or because they're going to be married. No matter what, we are impressed by the genuine interest of our Young Adults and we welcome them. We're here to serve. And, we invite them to become involved in the life of the parish, certainly in the monthly Community Kitchen and our get-togethers afterwards, as well as the following, designed exclusively for them, the Young Adult Paraklesis and dinner, which took place on October 26 (shown above), as well as the upcoming Winter Retreat.



The Lord said unto Me: Thou art My Son, this day have I begotten Thee (Psalm 2:7)



Dance Group News

The Annunciation dance program resumed on Sunday, August 19. Our program encompasses dancers from Pre-K to adult. The goal of our program is to cultivate appreciation of Greek culture and heritage through dance while also fostering fellowship in our youth and community. Therefore, the families of our dancers are stewards of the parish. All groups attend the annual Folk Dance Festival (FDF), sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. During the year, dance groups perform at Annunciation's Greek Festival as well as other special events.

With the exception of our Young Adults, our groups practice on Sundays, beginning at 12:30 p.m. We recognize that space constraints pose a challenge, but we have to make it work. So, we appear to be crowded on Sundays. We are. And we should be. After all, it's God's people, gathered in His temple, glorifying His holy Name. Interested in joining our award-winning groups? Contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com.

The Cathedral's dance groups are:

To Mellon: Pre-K-1st grade (must be at least 5 years old in Fall 2017)
Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 2nd-4th grade in Fall 2018
Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Trina Misthos and Eleni Taptelis

Thisavri: 5th-7th grade in Fall 2018
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 8th -12th grade in Fall 2018
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Atithasi: Young Adults
Directed by Michael Garibaldi and Nicole Garibaldi



Sunday School News

“Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy.”

~Saint Theophan the Recluse

We have all really enjoyed the start of Sunday School program. Our wonderful teachers, Maria Allen, Tina Kontonis, Farah Manneh, Chrisoula Novo. Thank you to all the wonderful families for supporting our Sunday School program this year; our relationship with you is precious.

For families who have not yet joined us for Sunday School, we invite you to participate in our program. Registration is still open and online for your convenience, at <https://tinyurl.com/AnnunciationSFSundaySchool>

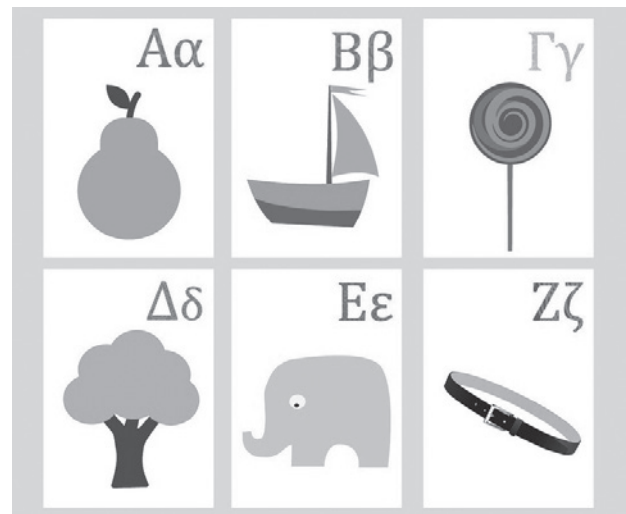
Our schedule starts at 10:30, welcomes from 10:30-10:45, Class Program (10:45-11:25), Wrap ups and Dismissal for Communion (11:25 - 11:30).

This year we are continuing our tradition of the Sunday School Christmas Music Program, which will take place on Sunday December 16th, right after Liturgy. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite grandmas, grandpas and your family for this special event. In preparation for this year’s program, we are going to hold rehearsals the first three Sundays in December, the 2nd, 9th, and 16th. The rehearsals will take on Sunday morning during the normal Sunday School hour. We appreciate your promptness for rehearsals, which will take place on the main level, in the Kytherian Room. This year, the children will be learning and singing two new songs, I Genesis Sou (In both Greek and English) and It Came Upon the Midnight Clear. For the remaining songs, please see the all Parent’s email sent on November 10th.

It is our beautiful tradition at Annunciation Cathedral that the Christmas Program Coffee Hour is sponsored by the Sunday School Families. Volunteer opportunities include: food prep, cooking, and cleanup for the event. If you feel you can participate, volunteer, donate, etc. please email: gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com, Grace Koutoulas. Once we know what we have for volunteers we can finalize the menu, as we get closer to the date for the event.

We always welcome additional help with Sunday School, including: organizing, errands, art projects, substitute roles, as well teaching positions. If you would like to volunteer to help with Sunday School, please see Brittany or Father Stephen.

Thank you all and much love this holiday season! Parents, please note: we are looking for lead parent(s) specifically for the Christmas Pageant Program December 16. Responsibilities include: Dry Cleaning of costumes, signing up families to help with Pageant, etc. If you are up to assisting in this way, please see Brittany or Father Stephen. (You may also speak to Natalie or to Zach.)



Greek School News

Greek school is fully underway! Below is a photo from the first day of school in September, when Father Stephen blessed the school year. The students are now preparing for our Christmas celebration which will take place on Saturday, December 15. Join us if you can, as the students sing Greek Christmas and New Year’s carols.



If you have any questions about Greek School, please send a quick note to Shu at 415-518-8750.

Serving in the Altar

Serving in the altar is a wonderful way for our young people to participate in the worship of our church, and learn more about our faith. For the present school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers have taken on the responsibility of coordinating the groups during services each week. We hope to add several more to their ranks in the coming years!

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group, who are above the age of 10, feel free to contact **Father Stephen** at fatherstephen@annunciation.org. Thank you also to **Nektarios McKnight** for guiding and instructing our altar servers each Sunday. As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions, feel free to let us know. Thanks!

Our altar schedule for December is as follows:

Our altar schedule for October is as follows:

December 2	-	Group 1
December 9	-	Group 2
December 16	-	Group 3
December 23	-	Group 4
December 25	-	All Groups
December 30	-	Group 1

Our altar groups are as follow:

Group 1- Stelios Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis, Justin Perez, Christian Kleinekorte

Group 2- Christopher Apostolos Percia, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, Matheos Zarou, Andonis Ambus

Group 3- Steven Chiappari, Gianni Kefalas, Nicholas Shatara, Michael Kamenis, Vlasis Kyriacou, Thanos Kyriacou, Nathanael Shatara (Micahel Kamenis, Group Leader)

Group 4- Nathan Tesfai, Bobby Kontonis, Hari Manetas, Alexander Kasolas, Matthew Nuris (Jonas Tesfai- Group Leader)

Don't see your name here? Would you like to join us? We would like you to. Report for altar duty any Sunday morning, prior to 10:30 a.m., and Nektarios will make the appropriate arrangements. Meanwhile, it is also imperative that you attend Sunday School. Ecclesiarch Nektarios notes: We have two Permanent Leaders in the Altar, and they are Nathan Tesfai and Michalis Kamenis. We anticipate a maximum of six additional servers in the Altar; any more than six will need to attend Sunday School. Altar servers are required to be vested and ready to serve by 10:30 a.m. Late comers will need to attend Sunday School if they cannot arrive early enough to serve.

Interested in forming a group of girl altar servers, beyond the Myrrh Bearer's (Angels) program that we have during Holy Week and Pascha? Please contact Evangelia Raptis-Zarou, erz.raptiszarou@gmail.com

Pangari Schedule

Serving on the pangari is a privilege, not only for Parish Council members, but for anyone who would like to be a part of the team of those who extend welcome to our services, especially for those who are visiting us from out of town and also people new to the community. The following teams, created so as to match up with their respective children, who will be serving in the altar on those days, consists of Parish Council members. Duties include the passing of the collection plate(s) and the seating of guests.

Team #1	Team #3
Deno Konstantinidis	Nicholas Rally
Philippos Athanasiades	Nicholas Svetcoff
Christopher Kyriacou	Chris Ramos
Dean Nicolacakis	

Team #2	Team #4
(Second Sunday Please)	Manoli Nuris
Paul Sogotis	Vasiliki Moulas
George Ambus	George Gavros
Mike Sarikakis	

Peter Manetas, Nick Kontonis, Michael Bagatelos, Gus Vellis also serve at the pangari, on a regular basis. Philoptochos members and other members of the community are invited to participate, as well. Please speak to Paul Sogotis, our "chief of protocol," and indicate your willingness to be a part of the pangari team.

Sacraments Funerals

Marianne Doukas, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 27, was buried October 30. She is survived by her son, Greg Doukas.

Mary Mitchel, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 14, was buried November 19. She is survived by her siblings, Thanos Dalianes (and Marguerite) and Kitsy Anagnostou, children, Pamela Piccinini, Dena Mitchel, and James & Ilda Mitchel, and grandson Jimmy Mitchel.

The Cathedral extends sympathies to Maria Haramis and their sons, upon the falling asleep of her husband and their father, Panagiotis (Peter). A Trisagion was held on November 1. The funeral took place in Greece.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory! Aionia

I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

D E C E M B E R C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MON.	TUESDAY	WED.	THU.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						Greek School 10 am Dance Practice, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am			Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		Greek School 10 am Dance Practice, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon			Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		Greek School 10 am Dance Practice, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am Parish Council, 12:30 p.m., Pick up Baked Goods; Parish Council Elections; Christmas Pageant		Community Kitchen 6:30 pm Young Adults Get-Together 8 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		Dance Practice, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon		Nativity of Christ, Orthros at 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy at 10:15 a.m.		Vasilopita Baking	Vasilopita Baking	Dance Practice, 10:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
30	21					
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon						

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
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“Lord, bless the founders and benefactors of Your Church.” (From the Divine Liturgy. Though we have far to go before we complete the interior and consecrated it to the glory of God, look at what you, the Annunciation Cathedral parishioners and friends of the Cathedral have accomplished: a magnificent complex, right in the heart of the City, all built as the result of the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989... the visible manifestation of our Greek Orthodox Faith. Let us prove worthy of this Faith, by continuing to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and by continuing to do good works by helping one another. This is what we mean by “commending one another and our whole life to Christ our God,” as we intone in the Divine Liturgy.