



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

JANUARY 2019

## Happy New Year!

On January 1 we typically wish one another a happy New Year. We are, perhaps, unaware that January 1, in Roman times, marked the beginning of the administrative or tax year. Our church year begins, rather, on September 1, following the Jewish practice of celebrating the new year on the first day of the lunar month of Tishrei (roughly equivalent to the month of September). So, what do we Orthodox Christians celebrate on January? For one, we observe the Circumcision of Christ. If you look at the Book of Leviticus, the third book in the Old Testament, chapter 12, verse 3, you will read, "On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised" (NIV translation). As we heard in the epistle reading at the Christmas Liturgy (Galatians 4:4), Jesus was "born under the law," that is, he underwent everything that was required by the law, including circumcision. The event is depicted in the 10th century icon, above. Additionally, January 1 marks the falling asleep of St. Basil the Great. St. Basil was bishop of Caesarea, in Cappadocia of Asia Minor. He lived in the 4th century. He is one of the most influential Church Fathers, who defended the belief that Jesus Christ is both a human being and, at the same time, God, as we recall when we recite the Nicene Creed. St. Basil was also known for his care of the poor and underprivileged. Finally, he is remembered as the father of communal monasticism.



He is referred to as Οὐρανοφάντωρ, "revealer of heavenly mysteries." That is, he correctly interprets such things as to why Jesus had to undergo circumcision. In the troparion of the feast, we sing: "Enthroned on high with the Eternal Father and Your divine Spirit/O Jesus, You willed to be born on earth of the unwedded handmaid, your Mother./Therefore You were circumcised as an eight-day old Child./Glory to Your most gracious counsel;/Glory to Your dispensation;/Glory to Your condescension, O only Lover of mankind."



## Vasilopita: St. Basil's Bread

It is customary for a special sweet bread to be baked, cut and distributed on January 1. Shown above is such a bread. Notice, a coin is being placed in the dough and baked with the bread. The Vasilopita commemorates a miracle performed by St. Basil while he was serving as a bishop. The legend varies as to how St. Basil became the guardian of the gold, silver, and jewelry of the people of Caesarea. Some say thieves had taken the valuables from the village, and they were recovered. Others say it was a tax the government asked St. Basil to collect, but then decided to cancel. In either case, St. Basil became responsible for returning the riches to the people. However, they could not agree on the rightful owners. St. Basil suggested that the women bake the valuables inside a large pita. When he cut the pita, each owner miraculously received the right valuable. Today a single coin is baked inside each loaf to honor this miracle, and the recipient has good

luck for the coming year. (From "A Guide to Greek Traditions and Customs in America" by Marilyn Rouvelas). The Vasilopita is celebrated in homes and in the church. The community Vasilopita will take place on January 6. It is the first Sunday in January. It is also the great feast of Theophany, otherwise known as Epiphany. It is the feast which commemorates the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. A service known as the Blessing of the Waters will take place, just prior to the Divine Liturgy (please refer to the calendar and/or the program of services for the twelve days of Christmas). Afterwards, a luncheon will take place, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. While a Vasilopita will be cut and distributed by Father Stephen, there will be individual Vasilopitas on every table. One person from each table can be designated to cut and distribute the bread to those seated at the table.



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# Parish Council

## MEETING



*His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, met with the Parish Council on December 16. Dean Nicolacakis, to the extreme lower right, is only partially shown. Unfortunately, that's how the photo came to us.*

## Parish Council Election Results

Elections for seven members of the Parish Council took place on Sunday, December 16, 2018, following the Divine Liturgy. This year, there were eleven candidates. The candidates receiving the highest votes, and therefore, elected to the Parish Council for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2019, are: George Ambadiotakis Ambus, S. Christopher Kyriacou, Nick Rally, Dean Nicolacakis, Manoli Nuris, Peter Cazanis, and John Lampros. The four who were not elected will be appointed as honorary members and, inasmuch as they have shown interest in helping lead our parish ministries, assigned to one of the Parish Council committees. We commend Alexander Kozak, Vassiliki Moulas, James Rakos, and Christopher Ramos. The committees, subject to modification, are as follows: Meeting agenda (compiled by the President), Meeting minutes (compiled by the Secretary), Treasurer's reports and annual budget (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, Scholarship Committee), Hall Management/Rentals, and City and State relations (Assembly and other permits, Business License, Secretary of State filings, White Zone, Regulatory Matters). On January 6, 2019, following the Divine Liturgy and, of course, ratification of the elections by His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos, the seven elected members will receive the oath of office. Afterwards, they will join the eight members of the Parish Council who had been elected to a two-year term previously and elect officers for 2019. The officers are: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer. We congratulate the newly elected members and look forward to continued progress for our community, first and foremost, in the ways of the Lord, and then in the growth and well-being of our community and the ministries offered. These are challenging times, especially for us who are in the throes of a building program. The challenges are not only financial. They also have to do with engaging of parishioners in the life of the parish, as well as outreach and evangelism...spreading the Good News of our salvation in Christ, through the time-honored tradition of the early church, which has been bequeathed to us as Orthodox Christians.

*When Thou, O Lord, wast  
baptized in the Jordan, the  
worship of the Trinity was made  
manifest. For the voice of the  
Father bore witness unto Thee,  
calling Thee the beloved Son,  
and the Spirit in the form of  
a dove confirmed His word as  
sure and steadfast. O Christ  
our God who hast appeared and  
enlightened the world,  
glory to Thee.*

—Apolytikion of Holy  
Theophany, Tone One



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



REMINDER: 2019 Annunciation  
Philoptochos  
VASILOPITA Brunch!

**Sunday, January 6, 2019 -**  
Following the Divine Liturgy

Donation - \$20.00

Reservation forms will be  
located in the Narthex

### 2019 Philoptochos Membership

Membership cards will be mailed out shortly so be on the lookout and renew or join to support our ministries.

### Light the Path

The Metropolis Philoptochos Light the Path Luncheon was held this year at the Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont, California on December 1, 2018. Once again it was a festive event with over 350 in attendance. The room was decorated with sixteen beautifully decorated trees provided by the Northern California Philoptochos Chapters and raffled in support of the Seminarians/Students from our Metropolis at Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Brookline, Massachusetts.



The Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos tree, themed A Holly Jolly Christmas, was decorated by the creative hands of Liberty Nuris and the gifts under the tree were provided



by Pat Aleck. The tree was beautiful with a warm and old-fashioned feel. Our Philoptochos hosted the appetizers at the reception with our thanks to Yvonne Stamatakis of Stella Catering. Valerie Roumeliotes and Janis Petrou provided the gorgeous decorations for the table. This was a great way to kick off the Holiday season!

*Today the nature of the waters is sanctified, and the Jordan is parted in two: it holds back the stream of its own waters, seeing the Master wash himself.*

—by Sophronios, Patriarch of Jerusalem

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 14<sup>th</sup> Street, S. F., 94103

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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 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:annunciation2019crabfeed@gmail.com)

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## We want to Keep Saying “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

December has been designated “Stewardship Month.” Parishioners were sent letters thanking them for their stewardship for 2018 or, if they had not sent their stewardship for 2018, they were sent letters saying how important they are as a part of the community, and, therefore, how vital their support is. We are, after all, a family. And, the strength of the family depends upon how much all of us participate in supporting the family. It not only strengthens the family, that is, the community, but ensures that it will survive and thrive, and that it will, in the future, bring more members into the fold. Call it outreach or call it evangelism. This is our mission as a church community, always moving forward, ever getting stronger as we go. So, that’s why the letters were sent. Then, Stewardship packets were sent to all 800 plus individuals and families who comprise the Cathedral community. The packets contained: 1) a Stewardship pledge card for 2019, 2) a return envelope, and 3) a brochure with additional information about Stewardship. Parishioners were 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 part, so that the Parish Council will know what it can count on, as it prepares the Budget for 2019. We’ve got to tell you: we are very encouraged by your response. As this issue of the Herald went to press, we received about 100 cards back. That’s about a 25% increase over last year, this time. All of this speaks volumes about your love for the Lord and His Church, and for your commitment to the Annunciation Cathedral. Now, we have to keep pushing ahead, to get all 800 to be active stewards. Meanwhile, we keep saying “thank you – ευχαριστώ.”

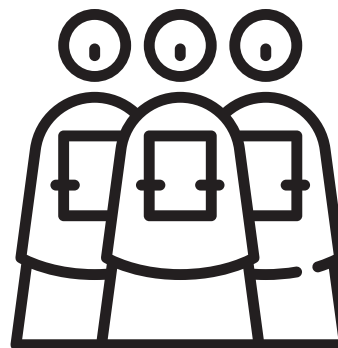
*The voice of the Lord upon the  
waters cries aloud saying: Come ye  
all, and receive the Spirit of wisdom,  
the Spirit of understanding, the  
Spirit of the fear of God, from Christ  
who is made manifest.*

–From the Great Blessing  
of the Waters, Tone Eight



## 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.



## 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.

*see page 6*

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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](mailto:nick@tarlson.com)

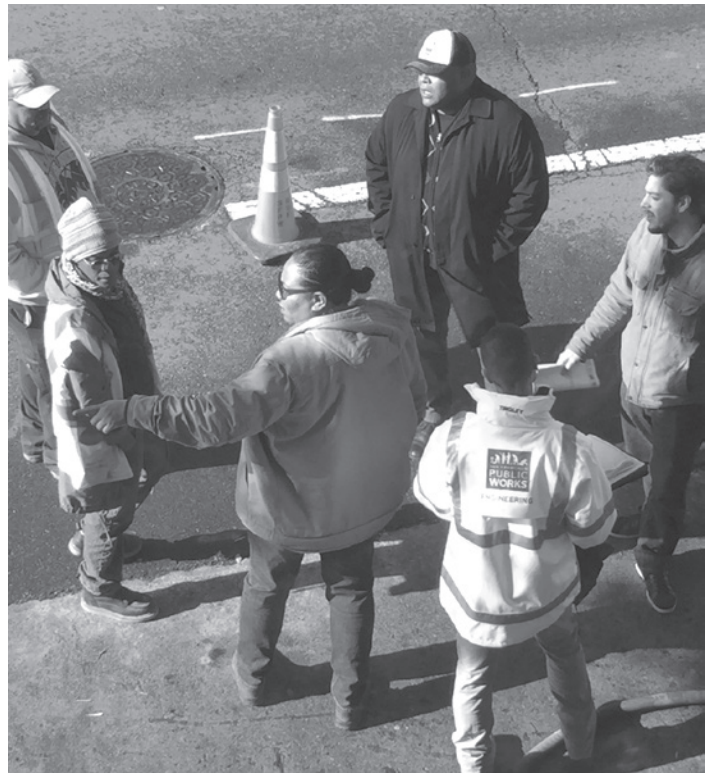
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## Καί τά λοιπά = Etc., i.e. Dis ‘n Dat

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The above graphic was affixed to one of the light poles in front of the Cathedral entrance. It tries to explain how the new configuration on Valencia Street will work. As one can see, the bike lane is being moved next to the curb. Meanwhile, virtually all the curb in front of the Cathedral’s buildings, including the new Cathedral, has been designated a “white zone.” Then, to the west of the bike lane, cars may park, except for passenger pick up and drop off times noted, that is, when school is in session. Otherwise, cars may continue to park. Incorporated in two places, i.e. at the current entrance and also at the future entrance, is a special “loading island,” where actual pick up and drop off actually takes place. We know it sounds confusing. And, from our point of view, it’s a great inconvenience to our parishioners. But, the redesign was done, primarily to ensure the safety of people using the bike lane. Time will tell whether this will also ensure the safety of people parking as well as those walking to church.



*City workers shown at the area in front of the Cathedral’s current entrance, about to begin work on reconfiguring the bike lane and the parking lane, and also incorporating special pick up and drop off zones.*

## Building Update: So, What About our Parking?

Well, we’ve signed a contract with the valet company that has been parking our cars on Sunday. The contract is for six months. During this time, we will evaluate the valet’s performance, and decide whether to extend the contract for the remainder of the three-year period that we have been granted a conditional use permit, thus enabling the Cathedral to open our parking component to the public. With contract in hand, the valet company can work with the City to allow us to open up the lot for weekday parking, even before the final inspections have been conducted. As noted in the last two issues of the Herald, we have yet to install the gates, finish the low wall, and finalize the lobbies and the elevator, thus creating “a clear path of travel” for people going down to the parking level. As we’ve said before, the cost to do this is approximately \$300,000. We hope to sign a contract with Albert Electric in the next few weeks, to allow us to complete this work and pass our final inspections. Then, people will be able to drive down into the lot and come up to street level, using the elevator or the stairs. Until then, however, the plan is for drivers to drop off their vehicles and for an attendant will take the vehicles down to the parking level. We hope the City will work with us to make this happen, seeing how the new configuration of the bike and parking lanes have negatively impacted street parking.



*A view of the parking level, virtually complete. The only thing we plan to do there is to mark the pillars with reflective material.*



*A view of the low walls along the front of the new Cathedral, which shows the work to be done. This includes facing the walls with granite, extending the pavers to the street, and placing new gates. Some of the gates will be motorized.*

## 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](https://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.

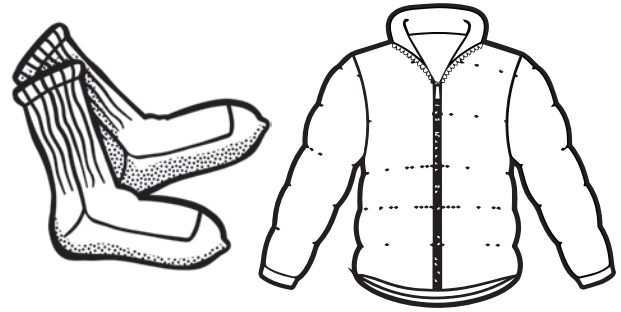
# 100

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.

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biblical  
religious  
believe  
faith  
Theology  
God  
preach  
spirituality  
worship



## 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 January Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, January 15. 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.

## 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 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 January, the class will meet on Sunday, January 13 and on Sunday, January 27.



## The Orthodox Church: Missionary by Nature, by its Calling

The nature of the Church is missionary. The Church always aims to proclaim the Gospel, that is, the saving work of Jesus Christ, to all nations. The Gospel according to St Mathew (Chapter 28, Verse 19), which is read at every baptism, has Jesus telling his disciples: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them..." However, this mission of the Church, here in America, has not always been in the forefront of our thinking. As our Church in America developed the last 100 years or so, its experience was more of an immigrant one, that is, it needed to care of those who were already born into the Faith, immigrants, their children and grandchildren. This last generation has changed all this, as we have been rediscovering the outreach aspect of the Church and our need to evangelize. We recall the visit to the Annunciation Cathedral of the current Archbishop of the Autocephalous Church of Albania, Anastasios, in September 1987. At the time, he was a bishop, in charge of missions in Africa. He challenged us



to change the paradigm our thinking, and to engage in the Great Commission, referred to in the quotation from the Gospel according to St. Matthew, above. In this regard, we have been progressing, both as a national church and at the local level. We now have departments, at the Archdiocesan and the Metropolis levels, that deal with missions, and with outreach and evangelism. We invite you to learn more about their work and how you might become involved. Do visit [www.ocmc.org](http://www.ocmc.org) (the Orthodox Christian Mission Center); [www.outreach.goarch.org](http://www.outreach.goarch.org) (the Department of Outreach and Evangelism); and [www.growthodoxy.org](http://www.growthodoxy.org) (the Missions and Evangelism Ministry of Our Metropolis).



## alzheimer's association®

### Dementia Caregiver Support Group News

While it may not show, in attendance, our parishioners and friends have taken note of the fact that a Dementia Caregiver Support Group is operating at the Cathedral. As the general population is aging, and as we are living longer and longer, we are all subject to the impact of cognitive issues. The Cathedral is pleased to partner with and host the Alzheimer's Association monthly support group meeting on the 1st Tuesday of the month from 11am-12:30pm. The group meets in the Cathedral's conference room, which is located on the second floor, to right of the elevator. We encourage your attendance, as you encounter loved ones affected by memory loss. Meet others who are going through exactly what you are going through. There is no cost to attend, and the support you receive is not only helpful; it can also be life-changing. The January meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 7. For more information, please contact Heather Gray, Family Program Manager, at 1.800.272.3900 or email her at [hgray1@alz.org](mailto:hgray1@alz.org).

### Walk for Life: Saturday, January 26, 2019

The 2018 West Coast Walk for Life was a banner year for Orthodox Christian participation. The organizing committee hopes that this year's Walk, which will take place on Saturday, January 26, beginning with a rally in Civic Center Plaza at 12:30 p.m. and the Walk proceeding at 1:30 p.m. will see an even greater participation. The Walk is a peaceful and prayerful opportunity to publicly witness to the sanctity of human life, which the Orthodox Christian Church has always proclaimed. As the prayer delivered last year notes, "we affirm the preeminence of divine law over human law." For more information about this, please visit [www.WalkforLifeWC.com](http://www.WalkforLifeWC.com).



### 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.

*see page 10*

from page 9

“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](http://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](mailto: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! In December, an entire class of middle school kids joined our young parishioner and his parents and helped set up, serve, and clean up. This participation by our younger kids was very moving. In January, Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, January 15. Our guests count on us to provide them with a hot meal, and fellowship. May we, in turn, count on you? It is a commitment; it does take a few hours of your time. Think about how much good you can do for others by showing up and volunteering for a couple of hours. Once again, that’s Tuesday, January 15, 5:30 p.m. for set up and 6:30 p.m. for serving. We look forward to your participation.



*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.*

*The river Jordan once turned back before the mantle of Elisha, after Elijah had been taken up into heaven, and the waters were divided on this side and on that: the stream became a dry path before him, forming a true figure of the baptism whereby we pass over the changeful course of life. Christ has appeared in the Jordan to sanctify the waters.*

—Apolytikion of the Forefeast of Theophany, Tone Four



## Goya News

### Get Ready for Summer Camp (even as we are involved in so many church activities, among them 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](http://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

*O earth and things upon the earth,  
dance ye and rejoice exceedingly.  
The River of joy is baptized in the  
stream: He dries up the fount of evil  
and pours forth divine remission.*

–Aposticha of Theophany, Tone Six

#### 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.goarch.org](mailto:JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org)



### Scenes from GOYA's recent ice skating get-together at the Embarcadero



see page 12 for more images



## 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](http://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. The Tsikitas, 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. Information about the Cathedral scholarships, including an application, will appear in February and subsequent issues of the Herald.



# THE PANHELLENIC

*Building a better America through Education & Hellenism*



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 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](http://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](mailto:JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org), Website: [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org)



## *Dance Group News*

The Annunciation dance program is in full swing, as we double up our practices in preparation for the Folk Dance Festival. FDF will take place this year in Ontario, CA February 14-17. During the year, dance groups also perform at Annunciation's Greek Festival as well as other special events. Our program encompasses dancers from Pre-K to adult. The overall 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.

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. Better to be bursting at the seams, so to speak, than gaze upon empty facilities. 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 continued our tradition of the Sunday School Christmas Music Program, which took place on Sunday December 16th, right after Liturgy. This was a wonderful opportunity to include grandmas, grandpas and your entire family for this special event. Rehearsals took place throughout December.



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

'Like' Annunciation Cathedral Sunday School!

We were also pleased to continue the beautiful tradition at Annunciation Cathedral of having the Christmas Program Coffee Hour sponsored by the Sunday School Families. Meanwhile, we are privileged to teach your children in the ways of the Lord, as Theophan the Recluse points out in the above quote. One of these ways is to encourage them to express themselves, especially in the context of the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Students pick a topic provided to them (for the lower grades) or one of their own choosing (for the upper grades), prepare a talk consisting of several paragraphs, and deliver it before the congregation. The winners of the Festival go on to participate in the regional festival, which will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont, on Sunday, April 14. The winners of that Festival go on to compete at the Metropolis Festival, which will take place at the Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center on Saturday, May 11. The Cathedral's Oratorical Festival will take place Sunday, April 7, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We encourage your children to participate, as they learn the Faith and as they grow in the ways of the Lord.



## *Greek School News*

Greek School celebrated the Birth of Christ with an amazing medley of recitations and songs on Saturday, December 15 (as the photos, below, show). Following the program, parents, teachers and students gathered for a pot luck lunch. Greek School resumes on Saturday, January 5. Being that we will be celebrating the Eve of Theophany (the Baptism of Christ, on January 6), the students will attend the agiasmos service (the Blessing of the Waters), at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. With Pascha and Memorial Day breaks (in late April and late May, respectively), Greek School continues every Saturday, until school is out, on June 8. What a wonderful thing it is to learn the language and culture of Greece and the Greek people. The camaraderie that the students have among themselves, in pursuing this learning, is amazing! Life-changing, and life-lasting experiences. If you would like to learn more about our Greek School, please send a quick note to Shu Yeung, our head of Greek School, at 415-518-8750. Meanwhile, we sadly note the passing of Despina Exarchou, mother of our teacher Loukia Papadopoulous. Mrs. Exarchou visited San Francisco frequently, and also had occasion to teach in our Greek School. Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!



Greek School ended the 2018 year with a fantastic Christmas performance by the students. The Christmas performance was held in the chapel on December 15. The students recited poems and sang traditional Greek Christmas and New Year songs (*Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων*). We are so proud of our students for their work during the school year and for putting on a great performance. Greek School will resume on Saturday, January 5. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all families!

*see page 16 for more photos*



*O Christ the King, Thou hast come unto the river as a man, and in Thy goodness Thou dost make haste to receive the baptism of a servant at the hands of the Forerunner, for the sake of our sins, O Thou who lovest mankind.*

From the Great Hours of Theophany, Tone Eight



Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου,  
Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη  
προσκύνησις. Τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος  
ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι,  
ἀγαπητὸν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα, καὶ  
τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἶδει περιστερᾶς  
ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές.  
Ὁ ἐπιφανείς, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, καὶ  
τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας, δόξα σοι.

–Ἀπολυτίκιον τῶν Θεοφανείων Ἦχος Α΄.



## 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

Deno Konstantinidis  
Philippos Athanasiades  
Christopher Kyriacou  
Dean Nicolacakis

### Team #2 (Second Sunday Please)

Paul Sogotis  
George Ambus  
Mike Sarikakis

### Team #3

Nicholas Rally  
Nicholas Svetcoff  
Chris Ramos

### Team #4

Manoli Nuris  
Vasiliki Moulas  
George Gavros

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.



*Bishop Neophytos from the Metropolis of Kenya recently visited California, where he celebrated the Divine Liturgy at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont, and also visited the Cathedral, where he viewed the progress on the new sanctuary. He is shown here with Father Stephen.*

## 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](mailto: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 January is as follows:

January 6	-	Group 2
January 13	-	Group 3
January 20	-	Group 4
January 27	-	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](mailto:erz.raptiszarou@gmail.com)



*Caption to read: Middle School and High Schoolers join the Cathedral's Young Adults in setting up and serving at the December 16y Community Kitchen.*

## Sacraments

### Baptisms

Thalia Nicole, daughter of Tom & Christine Prountzos, was baptized December 22. Her Sponsors are Dimitrios and Georgia Prountzos.

John Henry, son of Jason and Tillie Fell, was baptized December 30. His Sponsors are S. Christopher and Irene Kyriacou.

Kassianos Augusto, son of Justin and Carla Kyriacou, was baptized December 30. His Sponsors are Dr, James Jaber and Stavroula Stathopoulos.

*Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!*

# J A N U A R Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
			Church Basketball 7 pm.	Church Basketball 7 pm.		Greek School 10 am Dance Practice 10:30 a.m.
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Parish Council Oath of Office Parish Vasilopita	St. John the Baptist, Liturgy 10 am	St. John the Baptist, Liturgy 10 am Dementia Caregivers' Support Group, 11 am	Church Basketball 7 pm.	Church Basketball 7 pm.		Greek School 10 am Dance Practice 10:30 a.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Philoptochos, 12:30 pm Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am		Community Kitchen 6:30 pm Young Adults 8 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm.	Church Basketball 7 pm. Prep for Cretan Glendi 7 pm	Set up for Cretan Glendi 7 pm	Greek School 10 am Dance Practice 10:30 a.m. Cretan Glendi 6 pm
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Parish Council, 12:30 pm			Church Basketball 7 pm.	Church Basketball 7 pm.		Greek School 10 am Dance Practice 10:30 a.m.
27	28	29	30	31		
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am			Three Hierarchs, Liturgy 10 am Church Basketball 7 pm.	Church Basketball 7 pm.		

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
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ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL  
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*Since taking on the position of GOYA coordinator, some three years ago, Matia has made ice skating an annual tradition. Shown here are some of our teenagers at the Embarcadero, where they went ice skating this year, once again, with the Ferry Building tower in the background. With this, we extend best wishes for the New Year. May 2019 be a year of blessings, a year of peace, in our church community, in our City and in our nation, and around the world.*