



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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FEBRUARY 2019



FAITH. DANCE. FELLOWSHIP.

Dance Groups Gearing Up to Perform at FDF

Annunciation's dance groups will be performing at the annual Metropolis Folk Dance Festival. This year's festival February 14th-18th in Ontario, California. Annunciation Cathedral will be represented by our four dance groups – To Mellon, Revmata, Thisavri, and Spithes.



To Mellon, which translates to “The Future”, is our Kindergarten to 2nd grader dance group, 5-8 years old. To Mellon will be participating as an exhibition group with 16 dancers going down to Southern California! This is their 4th year participating in FDF as an exhibition group. At FDF 2020, they will be ready and old enough to compete! They have been hard at work these last several months learning new dances from Northern Thrace.

FDF, from page 1 – Revmata, “Currents,” is our award winning elementary age dance group, 3rd-5th graders. They have been competing for the past two years at FDF. This year, Revmata will be performing dances from the region of Epirus. They will be incorporating songs and traditions of Epirus in their two suites accompanied by live music,

see page 2

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.) Following administration of the oath of office, on Sunday, January 6, the seven joined the eight members who were elected last year to a two-year term and, under the chairmanship of the priest, elected officers for 2019. The officers are: President: S. Christopher Kyriacou, Esq.; Vice-President: Dean Nicolacakis; Seretary: Deno Konstantinidis; Treasurer:

Philippos Athanasiades; and Assistant Treasurer: James D. Vorrises. The Parish Council then assigned the various members to committees, as follows: Meeting Agenda: the president; Meeting minutes: the secretary; Treasurer's Reports: the treasurer: Stewardship: Dean Nicolacakis; Technology: Nick Rally; Estate Planning: Thomas A. Nuris, Esq.; Protocol: George Ambus; Youth: John Lampros; School Relations (Millennium, Waldorf): Philippos Athanasiades; Buildings and Grounds: Mike Sarikakis; Capital Campaign/Fund Raising: Thomas A. Nuris, Esq.; Construction Liaison: Philipppos Athanasiades; Education Committee (Greek School, Sunday School):



see page 3



from page 1 – wearing brand new costumes ordered from Greece. They are excited to see their fellow dance groups perform and have the experience of unity that FDF brings to them!

Thisavri, “Treasures,” is our award winning middle school group, ages 11-13 years old participating for their 8th year. This year, Thisavri will be presenting dances from the island of Evia and the Region of Drama in Macedonia. We are fortunate to have live musicians, playing authentic instruments from Greece for both rounds. Thisavri will present dances from the village of Karistos in Southern Evia. The dances are lively and upbeat, similar to those of the islands in the Dodekanese. The dances from the village of Xiropotamos, Drama, Macedonia are heavier in style with beautiful songs, which our dancers will be singing along with their dances. In addition, they will present customs from both regions.

Spithes, “Sparks,” is our award winning high school group, ages 14-17 years old. This is a big celebratory year for Spithes as it marks their 10th Anniversary at FDF, ironically going back to where it all began for them at their first FDF in Ontario,

California! This year, Spithes will be presenting dances from the island of Naxos. They will also be presenting the dances of the nomadic Sarakatsan people, who lived in the mountains of Epirus, Macedonia, and Thrace. For their Naxos suite, they will have live musicians playing authentic instruments from Greece. In presenting their Sarakatsan suite, Spithes will be singing all their songs acapella, while performing their dances. The Sarakatsan people did not have instruments in the past and therefore, they will be presenting this suite as in the “old days” to maintain its authenticity.

We wish all our groups the very best at this year’s Folk Dance Festival! We are, above all, grateful to our directors, for their tireless dedication to the program, as they teach every imaginable detail of the songs and dances, many of them performed for the first time. We thank all the dance families for their commitment; without their encouragement and support this program would not be possible. Last but not least, we extend thanks, as well, to our entire community for their love and support! Go Annunciation!

Ypapanti: The Meeting of our Lord and God and Savior Jesus Christ. This event is celebrated on February 2, when the baby Jesus was presented to the Temple, in accordance with Jewish Law, and “met” his religious patrimony, in the person of St. Simeon

Parish Council, from page 1

Peter Cazanis; Hall Management: James D. Vorrises; city and State Relations: Philippos Athanasiades; Insurance: Nicholas Svetcoff.

We congratulate the newly constituted Parish Council 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. 2019 promises to be a good year! May the Lord bless us with faith and with vision, as we pledge to offer our service to the glory of His Name, and to the well-being and betterment of our church community and the community at large.



Benefit Concert for the Cathedral Building Fund

As part of its Annunciation 2019 festivities, a very special concert of Greek Liturgical and Greek Folk Music will be presented on Saturday, March 23 at 4:00 p.m. in the Chapel of the Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco. It will be a benefit concert and will memorialize choir members who have passed since the last century. It will also honor choir members who are still singing in their churches of the Metropolis of San Francisco. The program will include music by Theodore Bogdanos, Steve Cardiasmenos, Frank Desby and Tikey Zes. The choir of members of Greek Orthodox Churches in the greater Bay Area will be conducted by Tikey Zes. Dr. Zes conducted the choir at the Cathedral some decades ago. Currently, he conducts the choir at the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church in San Jose. Proceeds from the concert will benefit the Cathedral's building fund. The donation is \$35 and includes a champagne reception, which will follow the concert. Meanwhile, the Committee welcomes sponsorships. There will be three categories

of sponsorships: Gold (\$500), Silver (\$250.) and Bronze (\$100.00) The names of our Sponsors will appear in the program. We welcome your participation and support. Donations are fully tax deductible, to the extent allowed by law For more information, please contact Nick Tarlson nick@tarlson.com, or call the Cathedral office, 415 864-8000, office@annunciation.org.



2019 Philoptochos Membership

Membership cards will be mailed out in February. Please renew or join to support our ministries.

Highlights of donations in 2018:

National commitments total ministries = 18 including Saint Basils Academy, Social Services & Cancer and General Medical Fund

Metropolis commitments total ministries = 6 including Kids 'n' Cancer and St. Nicholas Ranch

San Francisco Annunciation commitments = 14 including Sanchez School, Community Kitchen and Disaster Relief (at home and abroad)

American Heart Association®



Go RED Sunday is February 10th!

Please join the Ladies Philoptochos and wear red to raise awareness about cardiovascular disease in women. Stop by after church to have coffee and learn more about heart disease and give to the American Heart Association for the mothers, sisters and friends you can't live without.

Vasilopita

This year's Philoptochos Vasiloptia Brunch, held on January 6th, was most successful. We served a record crowd and sold out of Vasilopita! We thank those who prepared the Vasilopita and the brunch. We thank all who joined us. We wish you a blessed 2019.

Church of Ukraine Granted Tome of Autocephaly

On January 5, the Eve of Holy Theophany, His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew granted the Church of the Ukraine the tome of autocephaly. This means that the Church of the Ukraine is self-governing. It elects its own head. At the moment, the head of the Church is Metropolitan Ephiphanius of Kiev and all Ukraine. The tome was presented at a service at the Ecumenical Patriarchate, during which Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko and his family, hierarchs and other clergy, as well as a multitude of Ukrainian state and government officials were present, as well as media from throughout the world.

The event is one of world-historical significance. The question of autocephaly, or self-governance, however, has for a long time divided the Ukrainian Church. As we know, Kiev was the original center of Orthodoxy in present-day Russia. This center, a Metropolis, was since its founding in the 11th century an eparchy or province of the Ecumenical Throne. In 1589, the Ecumenical Patriarchate declared Russia an autocephalous church, in keeping with the long-standing custom of recognizing the stature of large expanses of Christian lands, as Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Jerusalem and Cyprus. Meanwhile, Kiev remained an eparchy of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. However, in 1686, the Ecumenical Patriarchate temporarily entrusted the ordination of the Metropolitan of Kiev to the Patriarch of Moscow, as political circumstances did not allow the Ecumenical Patriarch to travel to Kiev for the ordination. The Church of Russia, however, considers this to have been a permanent situation. Hence, when the Ecumenical Patriarchate made known its intentions to proceed with the granting of autocephaly, at the request of the Ukrainian state, the Church of Russia ceased commemorating the Ecumenical Patriarch. We note that no other of the autocephalous Orthodox Churches, of which there are fourteen, followed suit. Meanwhile, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which enjoys a position of primacy in world Orthodoxy, maintains its right alone among the churches to be able to grant autocephaly.

For a complete explanation, please see "The Ecumenical Throne and the Church of Ukraine." For a video of the granting of the Tome of Autocephaly, we invite you to visit www.arhons.org.



Philoptochos serves Vasilopita brunch on Holy Theophany, January 6. Close to 200 congregants stayed for the cutting of the Vasilopita and the brunch.



Metropolitan Epiphanius leading services at Kiev's St. Sophia Cathedral January 7.

Simeon received in his embrace the Word uncircumscribed and supreme in being, who is borne on high in glory upon heavenly thrones. And he cried out, 'Now lettest Thou thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, O Savior, salvation and delight of the faithful.'

Small Vespers of Ypapanti, Tone One



This magnificent house of worship awaits the next steps, outlined below.

Building Update

Above, is a recent photo of the new Cathedral. The caption under the photo says, "This magnificent house of worship awaits the next steps." What are the next steps? Without getting too technical, these are: 1. Completion of the punch list, 2. Finalization of a clear path of travel, 3. Opening of the garage, 4. Deal with bank loan, 5. Begin fund raising for Phase 2, 6. Proceed with work on the interior, 7. Finalize interior, 8. Begin utilizing the new Cathedral, 9. Consecrating the new Cathedral to the glory of God.

Completion of the punch list means the contractor finalizing tasks he has agreed to, including correction floor pitches in the garage and a few areas where leaks have been noticed. As the bank will fund the retainage still owed, approximately \$500,000., only until March, it is critical that this phase of construction is finalized asap. Secondly, a clear path of travel involves finishing both garage level and street level lobbies, the stairs between them, the exterior gates, the pavers leading to the street, some additional electrical work in the garage, and the final inspection of the elevator. The cost for this work is approximately \$245,000. The gates, installed and operational (at least three of them are motorized or operated electronically), cost another \$269,677. (the last estimate that we've had). Moving on, the opening of the garage is in the works. A contract with Golden State Parking has been signed. The company is in the process of working with the City to open the garage full-time (using a valet service) even before the clear path of travel requirements are met. As for dealing with the bank loan, which is at \$4.1 million, we are hoping to refinance, or recast the loan as an amortized loan, which would eliminate the annual balloon payment of \$400,000., over and above the \$23,000+ interest which we are currently paying. Then, fund raising. There are many ways to fund raise. One of the ideas discussed is the "personalization" of the courtyard pavers, of which there are approximately 750. If we can get

750 individuals to contribute \$2,000 to have their name(s) inscribed in the pavers (as has been done at the Ball Park and other venues), we could raise \$3 million. Work, then, on the interior can proceed. We have ordered final plans for this phase, known as phase 2. We are considering beginning with installation of the walls in the dome and at the upper level. For this, scaffolding would be required. Then, as long as the scaffolding is in place, we could complete the iconography in the dome, the pendentives, and the apse. We would then complete the lower walls and finalize the interior, including installation of radiant heating, completion of the flooring, the iconostasis, altar, seating, etc. This will enable us to begin worshiping in the new Cathedral and, finally, we would be able to designate a date for its consecration. All of this is doable in two years' time, assuming funding is in place



(Above) A view from Valencia Street through the archway, and into the courtyard. Finalization will include gates at the courtyard entry and at the walkway, leading from the garage lobby to the Cathedral offices.

(Right) This is, perhaps, the fourth installation of the fire hydrant found at the entrance to the new Cathedral. Hopefully, this one will pass final inspection





Counting Down to the Cathedral's 100th Commemorative Book Project Underway

In preparation for this important milestone in the Cathedral's history, a beautifully bound hardcover book will be created. Even though the Cathedral's 100-year anniversary is two years away, it's important to start this project now.

The 100th anniversary commemorative book will consist of:

- a history of the Cathedral
- photographs of all the head priests (deans) and many of the second or assistant priests, as these are available. Where they exist, their bios will also be included
- a profile and a history of the ministries of the Cathedral
- a collection of memorabilia covering major events, as the 60th anniversary celebration, the 85th anniversary celebration, the Ecumenical Patriarch's visit, crab feeds, Mother's Day luncheons and fashion shows, the Food Festival, etc.
- a profile of major donors, prominent individuals and families, and much more.

How does this differ from other commemorative books? Both in its format and in its funding.

The format will make for a coffee table quality publication, and not just another ad book

As for funding, people will help defray the cost of publishing the book by contributing to it. The amount of the contribution will be commensurate with the space they wish to take. The space—less than a page, or more than a page—will include family photos, and a profile or history of their family. They can also include tributes to the Cathedral. We are confident that everyone and every family will wish to be included. The income from this undertaking will benefit the Cathedral's Building Fund, so this is a great selling point.

Other parishes have followed a similar format, quite successfully. Most recently, Ascension Cathedral has produced

an extraordinary commemorative book on the occasion of their 100th anniversary.

Much of the historical data has already been collected. Still needed are: photographs of the interior of the Cathedral prior to the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, as well as photographs of the events noted above, including photographs of dance groups and also of athletic events.

Jim Loukas, who is heading the 100th anniversary commemorative book project, will be on hand Sunday, February 3 during coffee hour for the purpose of explaining the project more fully, answer any questions, and begin collecting your photographs, profiles, and histories. Meanwhile, should you wish to speak with Jim prior to February 3, please contact him by e mail: jim@loukas.com. Please let your friends you know, as well.



**SOCIAL
JUSTICE
= MINISTRY =**

In mid-January we as a nation observed the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In 1963, Dr. King was arrested in Birmingham, Alabama, following a protest against the racism in that city. Some local religious leaders criticized his campaign against racism for being disruptive. While in jail, Dr. King, who was at that time only 34 years old, wrote some beautiful words reflecting our interconnection as God's children. He wrote:

*"I am cognizant of the interrelatedness of all communities and states. I cannot sit idly by in Atlanta and not be concerned about what happens in Birmingham. Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Never again can we afford to live with the narrow, provincial 'outside agitator' idea. Anyone who lives inside the United States can never be considered an outsider anywhere within its bounds."*¹

Some may wonder what issues of racism and discrimination have to do with the church news that is found in the *Herald*. As Christians, these issues have everything to do with us. Our church community takes many loving actions to help those within our community and those out-

side of it, such as through the Community Kitchen. But we need to go one step further and consider, why are the people that we are helping in such need? Why are there so many people without homes or enough food to eat in the Bay Area, when there are more billionaires in San Francisco than in any city in the world other than New York? How can there be such a huge gulf between the haves and have-nots? Sure, we can think maybe people have had bad luck, or made bad choices, or had poor health, or something else about them, some personal characteristic that put them in their present situation. But the reality is, our society is set up in a way that is fundamentally unfair. And a big part of the unfairness in the U.S. is the historical and present racism against African Americans in particular, and people of color in general. A prime example of how society has been structured to benefit some and not others is housing segregation, which was supported by both the federal government and private businesses. Housing segregation continues today and has disproportionately negative impacts on African Americans. For further reading on this subject, see *The Color of Law: A Forgotten History of How Our Government Segregated America* (2018) by Richard Rothstein.

As Christians, we need to widen our understanding of who is in our community, and extend our love and care to them. The story of the Good Samaritan provides a wonderful example of seeing a person in need and immediately acting to help them. As was mentioned in a previous *Herald*, His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos joined Dr. King and others to end racism and stand up for the dignity of our fellow human beings. We can help others not only by providing for their material needs, but also by working to change our society, which treats some people as less important and deserving than others. We need to change society so that every person is recognized and treated with dignity and respect, so that every child born has the same opportunities to reach their full potential as any other child. These are among the challenges of being a Christian today.

1Clayborne Carson ed., *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.* (New York City: Grand Central Publishing, 1998), 189.

Thank You

**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**

We are pleased to share with you that, as of this writing, January 15, 120 Stewardship Pledge cards for 2019 have been received. This is a 12% increase over 2018. So, we are on our way to making 2019 a banner year. Additionally, we welcome the chairmanship of Dean Nicolacakis and his team. The team will systematically analyzing, overseeing, and maintaining our Stewardship program, which aims at growth in commitment and also in participation. We do not underestimate how important all of you are, as a part of the community. We are, after all, a family. And, the strength of the family depends upon the participation of all of us 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, gaining momentum and strength as we go. Next month, we hope to list all our Stewards for 2019, to say “thank you – ευχαριστώ.”

Hail, O Theotokos Virgin full of grace: for from thee has shone forth the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God, giving light to those in darkness. Be glad also, thou righteous Elder, for thou hast received in thine arms the Deliverer of our souls, who bestows upon us resurrection.

Apolytikion of the Feast



When are Memorials Celebrated? (When are they not allowed?)

Recently, a family brought kollyva to the church on a Sunday, on which a major feast day occurred, when we do not conduct memorial services. They had asked someone (not the priest) about this some time back, but got no definitive answer. When they appeared on this major holiday, the priest explained we do not hold memorial services on this day, but that he would be happy to read the memorial prayers afterwards, following dismissal of the congregation. The family left; they did not stay for church services that Sunday. This prompts us to offer a word about kollyva and memorial services. Normally, memorial services are not celebrated on Sundays, as Sundays are a time of celebration of the Resurrection, and not days for mourning. Saturday is the designated “day of the dead.” So, normally, memorial services should take place on Saturdays. However, through the principle known as *kat’oikonomian* (that is, dispensing of the rule, which is granted by the Bishop), memorials are held in church on Sundays, with some exceptions. Some of our faithful may even recall that, at least one area church, until recently, memorials were held prior to the start of the Sunday Divine Liturgy. At Annunciation, we follow the practice of most parishes and hold memorial services at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We are, however, bound to follow the guidelines of our Archdiocese. These are spelled out in the Annual Yearbook. The guidelines having to do with memorial services state: “Memorial services may not be chanted from the Saturday of Lazarus through the Sunday of Thomas, on any Feastday of the Lord or any Feastday of the Theotokos.” In other words, in addition to the Saturday of Lazarus, Palm Sunday, Holy Pascha and the Sunday of Thomas, memorials are not celebrated on

the Ascension, on Pentecost, on Christmas (December 25), on Holy Theophany (January 6), Ypapanti (February 2), the Annunciation (March 25), the Transfiguration (August 6), the Dormition (August 15), the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14) and the Nativity of the Theotokos (September 8). Additionally, memorial services are not held for those who have been cremated. In any case, and to avoid misunderstandings, when making arrangements for memorial services, our parishioners are kindly asked to make these directly with the priest. Arrangements for coffee hour following the memorial services may be made with the Catering Manager, but only after first making arrangements for the memorial, with the priest.



This photo shows the configuration of Valencia Street, in front of the Cathedral. The City calls it a pilot program. For us who've lived it these last couple of months, there have been trying moments. We even wrote the Mayor protesting how this work has impeded access for parishioners coming to worship. But, this is the state of affairs in our City. The above photo shows the bicycle lane, next to the curb. Next to the bike lane is a drop off platform and next to the platform, immediately adjacent the traffic lane, is street parking. In the opinion of some, this poses a danger both for those parking on the street and those traveling in the traffic lane. One needs to be extremely careful when opening driver's side doors. By trying to provide for bike safety, the City, again, in the opinion of some, is jeopardizing automobile traffic safety, not to mention the elimination of about 10 street parking places, along with the elimination of the middle lane. But, as they say, "that's life in the City."

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.



Introduction to Orthodoxy

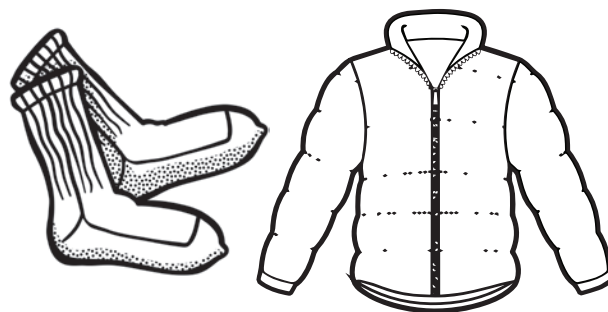
Introduction to Orthodoxy" Class Welcomes New Members to the Faith

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, located on the second floor, adjacent the elevator. The times are 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. In February, the class will meet on Sunday, February 10 and on Sunday, February 24.



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, February 19. 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.

*Lord, now lettest Thou
Thy servant depart I
peace according to Thy
word: for mine eyes have
seen Thy salvation*

(Luke 2:29-30)



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, February 5. For more information, please contact Heather Gray, Family Program Manager, at 1.800.272.3900 or email her at hgray1@alz.org.

O Christ our God, who hast been pleased to rest this day in the arms of the Elder as upon the chariot of the cherubim, from the tyranny of the passions now deliver us who sing Thy praises, and save our souls.

Doxastikon of the Feast, Sung at the conclusion of Orthros

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, February 19. 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, February 19, 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.



2019 Taste of Greece Food Festival September 20, 21 & 22

Thanks to all our 2018 Festival Volunteers that made our 2018 Food Festival a success. Building on this success, we are beginning to plan our 2019 Greek Food Festival. The Festival is entirely managed and staffed by volunteers, which means we simply cannot pull this off without your input and participation. Energetic, friendly volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs. Opportunities abound: there's plenty for you to do. Won't you join us? We are even open to welcoming and/or training a new Chairperson and Co-Chairperson. For more information about how you can get involved, please contact Deno Konstantinidis, denocom@hotmail.com or Grace Koutoulas, gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com.



If a Scout has earned a religious award, this would be an excellent time for the scout to formally receive it, along with a blessing.

All who participate are entitled to the Scout Sunday patch, described in the attached flyer.

Questions can be directed to Nick Tarlson, 415-956-5700 or nick@tarlson.com.

Goya News

Get Ready for Summer Camp (even as we are involved in so many church activities, among them helping at the Community Kitchen)

Our 2019 Metropolis Summer Camp online registration is now open, and we anticipate on selling out again by February. I wanted to make sure to give you all the opportunity to register your children for summer camp, and to also let me know if you plan to serve during one of the weeks of camp.

Please let me know if you (and your family) will be joining us this summer, and which session you will attend..

2019 SUMMER CAMP DATES

Session I: July 7 – 13 (74 spots available)*

Session II: July 14 – 20 (89 spots available)*

Session III: July 21 – 27 (98 spots available)*

*as of January 8, 2019

For more information about Summer Camp, please visit our youth office website at: www.gosfyouth.org



Calling All Scouts

February 10 has been designated "Scout Sunday." Souts are invited to attend Divine Liturgy on this day, in their Scout uniforms. We would like to recognize the Scouts and mention that there are religious award programs for Orthodox Christian Scouts of all ages: St. George for Tiger Cubs, Cub Scouts, Brownies, Trail Life and American Heritage Girls in the 1st to 3rd grade, Chi-Rho for Cub Scout, Girl Scout Junior, or in a Camp Fire program Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls in 4th and 5th grades, Alpha Omega for Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Explorer, Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls or Camp Fire member in 6th to 12th grade, and Prophet Elias Award for adult lay volunteers in Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Explorer, Trail Life USA, American Heritage Girls or Camp Fire programs or adult members of other religious bodies who are active registered leaders for at least 8 years of one of the three national youth agencies who are performing an exceptional service to Eastern Orthodox young people.



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 Scholar-

ships, 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, follow:



2019 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

For 2019, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation will provide four (4) scholarships, as follows:

1. The John N. Pappas Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
2. The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
3. The S. Lee Vavuris Legal Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
4. The Dr. Anthony P. Bagatelos Scholarship, in the amount of 75% of interest earned, and

Please complete and forward the appropriate application to the attention of: The Scholarship Committee, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, California 94103 **by May 24, 2019**

The application must be accompanied by the following:

- * **An Official Transcript** from the Office of the Registrar at your High School or College (University/ Vocational School) AND **Recent SAT or ACT Scores**.
- * **A Letter of Recommendation** from ONE (1) Member in Good Standing with the Cathedral of the Annunciation OR the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos.
- * **A brief resume (2 page maximum)** about yourself including: honors/awards, special skills, extracurricular information, education, and life goals.
- * **Additionally**, the applicant (or, if the applicant is under 18 years of age, the applicant's parent(s)/guardian(s) must be a member of the Annunciation Cathedral. A member of the Cathedral includes support of the Cathedral through Stewardship. A 2019 Stewardship Pledge Card must have been filed with the Cathedral in order for the scholarship application to be considered.
- * **Relative to the Bagatelos/Vavuris Scholarships:** Applicants for the Dr. Anthony P. Bagatelos and the Judge S. Lee Vavuris Legal Scholarships must be of Greek descent or of the Greek Orthodox faith. These scholarships are awarded to students who matriculate at and attend medical/law school, preferably at Stanford University/University of San Francisco and intend to practice medicine/law within the nine county area, surrounding San Francisco Bay, preferably San Francisco.

Up to 75% of the income earned by the Bagatelos Scholarship Fund is awarded in the form of a scholarship for tuition or other school-related expenses. Typically, the scholarship is awarded to the same student until that student graduates from medical school, provided that, after submitting the initial application, the student requests the medical school to verify to the Annunciation Cathedral, in writing, by June 1, that the student has satisfactorily completed course work for the year. As for the Vavuris Scholarship, the scholarship is awarded by the Annunciation Cathedral, in concert with the Hellenic Law Society.

* **All Applicants:** Applicants will be notified as soon as possible following the May 24 deadline. **Certificates of scholarship will be presented at the Graduation Day Program which will follow the Divine Liturgy, on Sunday, June 9 and which the scholarship recipients are expected to attend.**

2019 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

1. NAME _____
2. ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ ZIP _____
3. AGE _____ DATE OF BIRTH _____ TELEPHONE _____
4. E-MAIL _____ FAX _____
5. HIGH SCHOOL/COLLEGE you are currently attending _____
6. COLLEGE you will be attending in the fall _____
7. Field of Study: Major _____ Minor _____
8. Actual Grade Point Average _____ Weighted GPA _____
9. Date of High School Graduation _____ Career Objectives _____
10. Name of Parent(s) or Guardian _____
11. Address (if different from above) _____
12. Involvement of Applicant with the Cathedral { } Member { } Youth { } Choir { } Sunday School { } Greek School { } Altar { } Dance Group { } Athletics { } Note: Altar Servers and Sunday School students, please indicate years of service. From _____ to _____. Did you participate in the parish Oratorical Festival? Yes { } No { } Other _____
13. School Honors & Awards _____
14. Offices held in Class, School, or Church Organizations _____
15. Out-of-School Activities _____
16. Have you received a Cathedral, Cathedral Philoptochos or Vellis Scholarship in previous years? YES { } NO [] Number _____ Year(s) _____
(Priority will be given to those who have not previously received a Scholarship.)

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT: I hereby certify that I am a Greek Orthodox Christian (or, of Greek descent, if applicable), spiritually in good standing and a member of the Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, California (or otherwise qualify as noted in the instructions). I have answered the above questions correctly and to the best of my knowledge. I will use any funds awarded to me (to be credited to my school account, or to me, if crediting my account will reduce other scholarship awards) as a result of this application for the sole purpose of assisting me in my higher education.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____



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 Mithos 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



Our Young Adults are becoming increasingly involved in the life of the Church. They are worshiping 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 Winter Retreat, held last month.



Sunday School News

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

~Saint Theophan the Recluse

Annunciation Sunday School’s Christmas Pageant & Luncheon was a big success this last December! We would like to thank our Parent Volunteers: Peter Cazanis, Stephanie Thompson, Zachary Weiner. Our Teacher Volunteers: Chrisoula Novo, Athena Kontonis, Maria Allen, Brittany Dhawan and Yvonne Chappari. And other volunteers: Alayna Dunkerly, and Marianne Kosteroglou. We’d also like to thank all of the parents and parishoners that donated to the Sunday School ministry. We will be using those funds for purchasing new curriculum materials for the classes. Also a huge thank you for Natalie Schrik who was the interim Sunday School director for the fall while Brittany was out on maternity leave, and who also did a ton of the behind the scenes work on the Pageant and Luncheon.

see page 16

FDI Diakonia Project

Being in the heart of the mission in San Francisco, we are in a very culturally and financially diverse area. As we too are in the process of rebuilding, we felt it is very important to help the surrounding community. This year for our Diakonia project, our dance groups and their families, To Mellon, Revmata, Thisavri and Spithes, worked with the Sanchez school, several blocks from our Cathedral, to adopt 7 homeless families for the holidays. We provided them holiday gifts, as well as department and grocery store gift cards. In addition, we provided holiday gifts from wish lists for over 50 underprivileged children. Our families are glad to share the joy of giving back to those less fortunate.

Atithasi: Young Adults

Directed by Michael Garibaldi and Nicole Garibaldi





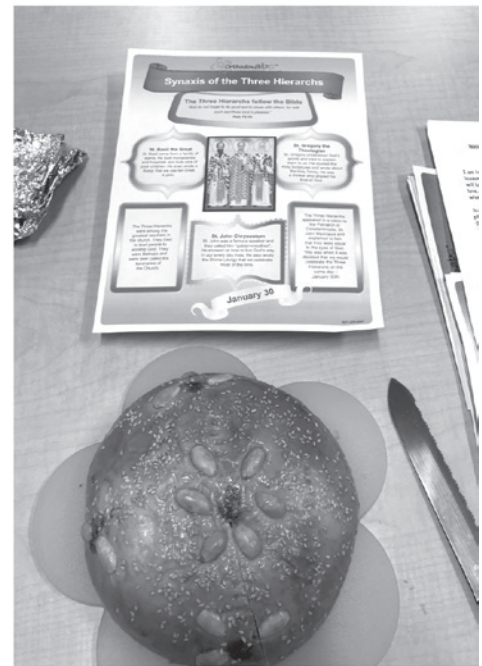
Angels we have heard on high...



The first Noel...



We love Sunday School!



Now we know why we cut the Vasilopita.

from page 15

Some of the highlights on this year's pagent include: Bringing back the costumes and some form of a pagent! We also finally got the manger repaired (a big thank you to Adam Santner). And we also got through cleaning and repairing many of the costumes we used this year. Next year if you would like a bigger extended pagent and would like to volunteer to help organize it, please come talk to Brittany.

Also we'd like to highlight that our Halloween annual Unicef fund drive, where our students raise money for other children that Unicef ministers to, raised \$130 this year on the collection boxes. We will be doing this fund drive again for Halloween 2019.

We started the New Year with a lesson about the three hierarchs and cut a Vadilopita especially made for the Sunday school students by Maria Allen. We cut a piece for Jesus Christ and Saint Basil. Then we cut pieces for everyone present. Kosta Weiner got the coin. See photo, back page.

We are also still looking for additional Sunday School teachers, we would like to have a dedicated high school teacher again to separate our junior high and high school classes again. And we will next be looking for parent volunteers closer to Pascha for the TGI Pascha event again this year.



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

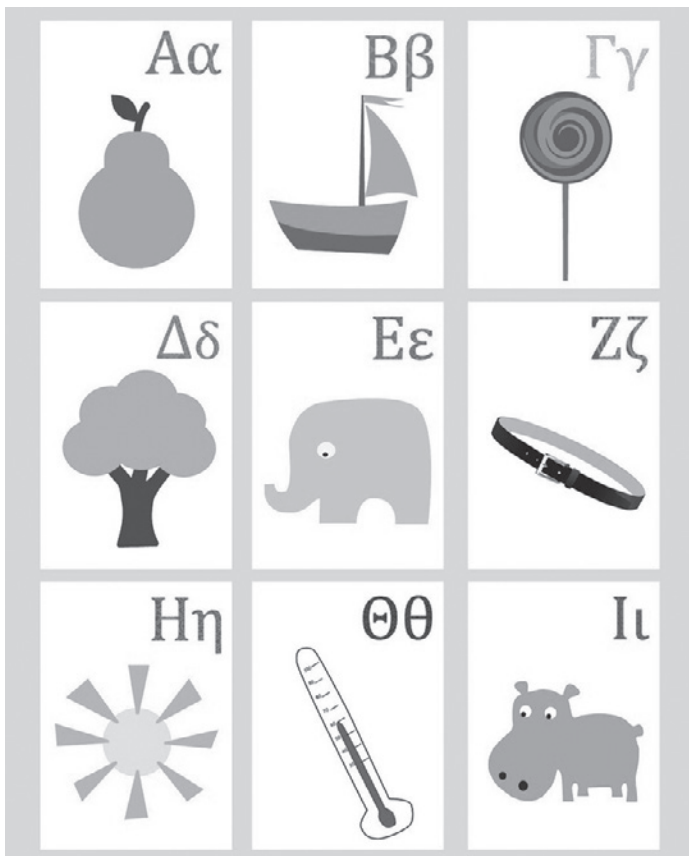
Team #3

Nicholas Rally
 Nicholas Svetcoff
 John Lampros

Team #4

Manoli Nuris
 Peter Cazanis
 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 Dr. George Ambadiotakis, Ambus, Chair of our Pangari protocol committee, and indicate your willingness to be a part of the pangari team.



Greek School News

Something new at Greek School: We now have a Greek performing arts class. We barely announced the class, and we already have ten students enrolled.

- Performing arts classes began on Saturday, January 12 from 12:30-1:30 pm and are being taught by Ioli Advani and Ioanna Vlachou.

The students will perform two plays this semester (one at our Greek Independence Day celebration and one on the last day of school). Through these plays, students will be afforded the opportunity to learn more about Greek culture and history.

The first play, which will take place on the occasion of March 25 (Greek Independence Day), is entitled the Secret School (to krifo scholio). It will include a kalamatiano dance, songs about freedom, and acting.

The second play, which will be performed the last day of Greek School, June 8, will have a summer theme. It will feature scenes around a campfire, and will consist of music, dancing and acting

In terms of tuition, the cost is \$225 per student, for the semester. This ends up being \$13/class for each student.

For questions or to request additional information, please reach out to Shu Yeung shuh_yeung@yahoo.com

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 February is as follows:

February 3 - Group 2
February 10 - Group 3
February 17 - Group 4
February 24 - 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

Sacraments

Baptisms

Lucas, son of Efrem Fessahzion and Misgana Chaway, was baptized December 30, 2018. His Sponosr is Ermias Abraha.

Anthony Josiah, son of Victoria Selianitis, was baptized January 20. His Sponsors are Taumaoe Selianitis, Melina Winzler, and Estefania Khayat.

Olivia Katherine, daughter of Demo and Vanessa Selianitis, was baptized January 20. Her Sponsor is Demetri Selianitis.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

Funerals

Constance Panagotacos, who fell asleep in the Lord December 21, was buried December 28. She is survived by children Dr. Peter, Dr. James, and Milton Panagotacos, 9 Grandchildren and 9 Great-grandchildren.

Lucy Manetas, who fell asleep in the Lord December 23, was buried January 3. She is survived by her children, Peter Manetas and Anna Diamantopoulos, their spouses and their children.

Maria Vasiliou Raissis, who fell asleep December 27, was buried January 5. She is survived by her children, Mina Economou and Tracy (Thrasylvoulos) Raissis, children and grandchildren.

Eternal Memory!

F E B R U A R Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						Ypapanti, Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Messinian Artoklasia, 100th Anniversary Commemorative Book Info		Dementia Support Group 11 a.m.	Church Basketball 7 pm.	Dementia Caregivers' Support Group, 11 am Church Basketball 7 pm.		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Introduction to Orthodoxy, 9 a.m. Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Go Red Sunday, Philoptochos Meeting				FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL, ONTARIO, CA		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
FDF - Final Day Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am FDF (No Sunday School) 40 day Memorial: Connie Panagotacos		Community Kitchen 6:30 pm Young Adults 8 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm.	Church Basketball 7 pm.		
24	25	26	27	28		
Introduction to Orthodoxy, 9 a.m. Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Parish Council 12:30 p.m. Church Basketball 2 pm			Church Basketball 7 pm.	Church Basketball 7 pm.		

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320

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Lucky guy!