



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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NOVEMBER 2019

Cathedral Prepares to Launch 2020 Stewardship Campaign

A handy on line dictionary defines “stewardship” as: stew-ard-ship /əst(y)oʊərdʃɪp/ noun: stewardship; plural noun: stewardships - the job of supervising or taking care of something, such as an organization or property. In the Bible, the word “steward,” which is how the original Greek word οἰκονόμος is translated, refers to the management of the of the gifts which God has given. Characteristic is the teaching from the first letter of Peter, 4:10, which reads: “Based on the gift each one has received, use it to serve others, as good managers (or stewards) of the varied grace of God.” Stewardship, in this sense, is our response to God’s grace and generosity. It is our response, our commitment to care for everything and everyone that is entrusted to our care. “The world and all who dwell therein,” as Psalm 24 puts it, and as cited by St. Paul in his first letter to the Corinthians (10:26).

One thing is clear: stewardship is a sacred undertaking. Sacred because it is our response to God and our relationship with the Lord. We often make reference to the “trinity” of stewardship: that it is the giving of our “time, talent, and resources.” Stewardship, as our response to God, who asks us to take care of one another, is to be at the service of one another, to give: 1. Our time (being there for each other), 2.

Our talent (what we’re good at), and 3. Our resources (our money). In the Old Testament, “stewardship” was strictly defined. It was 10% across the board. People gave 10% of everything they had to the Temple. With the coming of Christ, “stewardship” is no longer seen as a percentage, but as an “all or nothing commitment.” Remember the widow and her “mite?” The story is told in the Gospel according to Matthew (12:41-44) and also the Gospel according to Luke (21:1-4). A mite was the smallest denomination of coins. In our monetary system, that would amount to a penny. This is all that the poor widow had. Jesus saw her put her “two cents” into the box and he told the disciples: “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on.”

Christ is asking us to adopt a mindset of giving. With this mindset, stewardship becomes “a way of life.” For, all that we have is, in the end a gift from God. In mid-November, parishioners of the Cathedral will be asked to make their stewardship commitment to the Cathedral for the year 2020. We ask our brothers and sisters to make your commitment, as Scripture asks us to: “Each of you should give what you

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*Congratulations to our Middle School volleyball team on winning their division championship in the tournament October 20, shown here, and to our High School team for winning three games in a row to take 2nd place. Congratulations, as well, to **Christo Pappademos**, our Pastoral Assistant, who was awarded the Coach of the Year award. A special thank-you to our coaches **Patty Rally** and **Theo Kotseroglou** and to all of our parents who came out to support our kids.*

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have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7-8). More about stewardship will be found in the brochure which will accompany your 2020 Stewardship Pledge Card. We take this opportunity to invite you all to participate, to thank those who are proud to call themselves "stewards" and also to invite those who are not yet stewards to join in. We are, after all, a family. If we do not take care of one another, who will?

More scenes from our wonderful festival!



Community Christmas Card

For as long as we can remember, Annette Chiapari of blessed memory, Kalliope Fousekis and Annamarie Balian set up a table during coffee hour and took your name(s) for the community Christmas card (the card that is sent to some 1,000 households, bearing your greetings for Christmas and the New Year. Just two months ago, Annette was called home to be with the Lord. Kalliope Fousekis and Annamarie Balian, meanwhile, will continue to receive your names. The Christmas card table will set up during the month of November, through the first Sunday in December. Please do stop by. To help defray the cost of printing and mailing the card, we ask you for a modest donation of \$25 per line. We're certain you will want to be included as we greet one another with the great news of the Birth of Christ!

St. Anthony the Great: "The truly intelligent man pursues one sole objective: to obey and conform to the God of all. With this single aim in view, he disciplines his soul, and whatever he may encounter in the course of his life, he gives thanks to God for the compass and depth of His providential ordering of all things."

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and
the Metropolis of San Francisco Philoptochos
joyfully invite you to attend

Light the Path

a Christmas Luncheon in support of the
BISHOP ANTHONY PHILOPTOCHOS
STUDENT AID ENDOWMENT FUND

11:00 am

Saturday, November 23, 2019

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Irvine, California

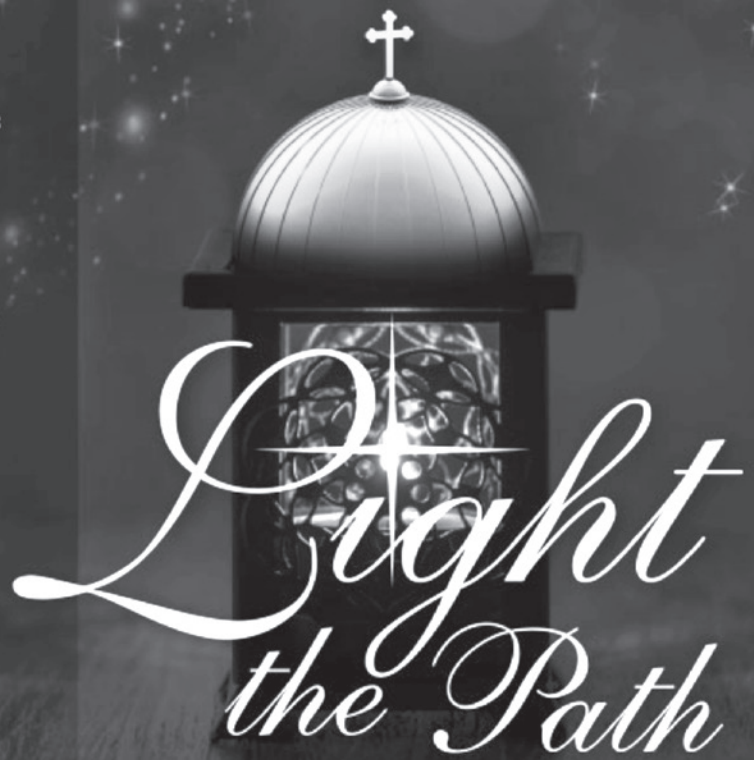
Saturday, December 7, 2019

Annunciation Cathedral
San Francisco, California



\$75 per person

Call: 415.431.2600 • email: office@sfphiloptochos.org • visit: www.sfphiloptochos.org



*"Your word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."*

Psalm 119:105

The Cathedral Philoptochos Presents Light the Path

One of the most successful annual events in our Metropolis is the Light the Path Luncheon. Sponsored by a local chapter each year, this is usually a sell-out event. One event is held in northern California, while another is held in southern California. The northern California event this year will be coordinated by our own Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos. Our multipurpose hall will be transformed into a winter destination, complete with Christmas trees and holiday trimmings. You won't want to miss this. The date is Saturday, December 7, beginning at 11 am for a reception and followed by lunch and the program. As the event raises money for the Bishop Anthony and Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund (the only fund of its kind in the entire Archdiocese), the event is a must attend occasion. The Fund helps defray the cost of educating our future priests, at Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, in Brookline, Massachusetts (our only seminary). Jan Petrou, our Philoptochos President, looks forward to a record attendance at this year's event on December 7. The donation is \$75 per person and reservations may be had by calling 415 431-2600 or

office@sfphiloptochos.org. You may also visit: www.sfphiloptochos.org. Meanwhile, Jeannie Ranglas, President of our Metropolis Philoptochos Board, writes: "Greetings to all in this new ecclesiastical year! I hope this message finds you well and enjoying God's blessings in your life. In our continued support of the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund, it is my joy and honor to invite you to join me for LIGHT THE PATH, Saturday, December 7, 2019 at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, beginning at 11 a.m. The Metropolis of San Francisco is proud to be the only Metropolis, at present, that supports our Seminarians and Students in a tangible way through the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment fund. Our mission is to significantly decrease the debt of those Seminarians and Students within our Metropolis upon graduation. It is a privilege to serve and invest in the future of our church! Thank you for your continued generosity, steadfast prayers, and love. I hope you will join me for this beautiful afternoon of joyous celebration to welcome the holiday season and support this worthwhile ministry."



In keeping with the spirit of Philoptochos, on Sunday, September 8, 2019, we proudly swore in the Philoptochos board for the new term. Axios!

As Philoptochos members, we will continue to contribute and support the mission of our society:

- to aid the poor, sick and those in need
- to make a difference in the needs of our neighborhood – the Mission
- to promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic purposes
- to preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian's concepts, family and to promote faith and traditions
- to support our seminarians and students of the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
- to fulfill our obligations and commitments to our Cathedral, the Metropolis and the National Philoptochos' ministries

If you would like to learn more, please reach out to a Philoptochos member.

Below: Philoptochos members tallying up at this year's fabulous bake sale during our Festival September 20-22. Our pastries, as usual, were a big hit!



Demetri Kumarelas, Seminarian, Guest Speaker at the Bishop Anthony Student Aid Endowment Fund, Light the Path luncheon on Saturday, December 7.



Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to Visit Annunciation Cathedral

As this issue of the Herald went to press, we learned that our new Archbishop of America, His Eminence Elpidophoros (shown above on the left) will visit San Francisco and will celebrate the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral on Sunday, January 27. No doubt, we will have a luncheon following the Liturgy, welcoming His Eminence and celebrating 30 years since the earthquake, which compelled us to rebuild the Cathedral and its ancillary facilities. The Archbishop's visit will be a historic marker in the history of our community, as it will focus national attention on our community and its future. The visit was discussed extensively at the meeting of the Parish Council on October 27. Details will follow.



Counting down to 100th

Our historic 100th Anniversary is fast approaching! So far our feedback from the surveys which were mailed out indicates that there is significant interest in a celebratory banquet to mark the occasion. This is sure to be a wonderful and memorable evening. Additionally, there are many other opportunities and ways to mark our 100th throughout 2021. It will be a year-long celebration of our community and its history. Whether it be a concert, guest speaker, or other event, please make your ideas known to the Parish Council and to Father Stephen, by utilizing the following link: www.annunciation.org/100th Let's make 2021 a proud and memorable year in our history!

**27TH ANNUAL
REMEMBERING
HOME**

VESPERS, RECEPTION, AND BANQUET
*In support of the global humanitarian work of
International Orthodox Christian Charities*

Sunday, November 10, 2019

FEATURED PRESENTATION
Learn about IOCC's ongoing humanitarian response
in Greece, Syria, Lebanon and around the world

HOSTED BY
Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church
1110 Highland Drive, Novato, CA 94949

Pan-Orthodox Vespers: 4:30pm
Reception: 5:15pm | Dinner: 6:00pm



Bay Area 27th Annual Remembering Home Banquet: November 10

27 years of caring. 27 years of continual support for IOCC, the group that gets food and supplies to the neediest, around the globe. 27 years of the message going out, by means of the Remembering Home Banquet. This year's banquet will take place on Sunday, November 10, at the Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Novato. Come enjoy one another's fellowship. Learn about IOCC's ongoing humanitarian response in Greece, Syria, Lebanon and around the world. Vespers at 4:30 p.m. followed by a reception at 5:15 p.m. and dinner at 6:00 p.m. Tickets may be obtained by going to IOCC's Remembering Home Banquet.



biblical
religious
believe
faith
Theology
God
preach
spirituality
worship

Technology Corner: Gone Phishing

Recently, Father Stephen's e-mail, fatherstephen@annunciation.org was compromised by recipients receiving a request, ostensibly from him (but with a different reply e mail), asking for things like gift cards. Something similar occurred by people using Father Stephen's cell phone (which is available when you call the Cathedral and receive a message, after hours, in the event of an emergency). We checked with both the phone service provider and also with our tech support and learned this kind of activity, called "phishing" is becoming increasingly common. Even if the e mail address is changed and the cell phone number is changed, those malevolent individuals who use these means to defraud others can easily obtain the new information. Father Stephen sent out the following message to the Cathedral's parishioners and friends, also posted to our web site: <https://www.annunciation.org/38-latest-news/350-featured-4>, as to how to best handle the situation in the event they receive bogus e mails or texts:

Dear parishioners and friends of the Cathedral,

I recently learned of a fraudulent e-mail from an individual, posing as myself, asking the recipient to purchase gift cards. If you receive or have received such an email, please flag the e-mail as spam and DO NOT respond. It has never been the Annunciation Cathedral's policy to solicit funds, for any reason, through e-mails. For reference, my valid e-mail address is fatherstephen@annunciation.org - please do not reply to any other address that appears to have originated from me. The kind of phishing displayed here, unfortunately, is not uncommon in today's world. The Cathedral regrets any inconvenience and wishes you a blessed day.

St. John Chrysostom on Thanksgiving:

"Happiness can only be achieved by looking inward and learning to enjoy whatever life has and this requires transforming greed into gratitude."

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 month. 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. Classes will take place on Sunday, November 10 and on Sunday, November 24.



Dementia Caregiver Support Group News

Our Dementia Caregiver Support Group has been growing in numbers. This means it addresses a need. The need for caregivers to receive support in caring for their loved ones. 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 invite 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 October meeting will take place on Tuesday, November 5. For more information, please contact Heather Gray, Family Program Manager, at 1.800.272.3900 or email her at hgray1@alz.org.

Parish Council Elections December 15

Our Parish Council, as defined by the Archdiocese Uniform Parish Regulations and our own Parish By-Laws, consists of the Dean and 15 elected lay members. We meet once a month, typically on the third Sunday of the month, and, together, administer the affairs of the parish, including finances, construction, and management, including technology, equipment, and personnel. Elections are held once a year for one-half of the Parish Council, for 7 members one year and 8 members the next. This year, 8 members will be elected, to a two-year term. We are always looking for dedicated church people who wish to offer their services and expertise. One requirement is that those who wish to run for Parish Council are members in good standing with the Church. This means, among other things, that they are Stewards of the parish for at least one year prior to the elections. Also, those who have not served on the Parish Council before will also attend a seminar offered by our Dean. The seminar will take on Sunday, December 1, at 12:30 p.m. If you are interested in running for Parish Council, please contact Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org.

Parish Assembly November 24

On November 24, parishioners of the Cathedral are invited to attend and participate in a Parish Assembly, following that day's Divine Liturgy. The Assembly, which lasts about an hour, is affords parishioners the opportunity to interact with the Parish Council, be informed of its work, and also ask questions. The Agenda includes the following items: 1. Election of Assembly Chair, 2. Reading and Approval of the October 28, 2018 Minutes (Deno Konstantinidis), 3. Construction Update (Tom Nuris, Chris Kyriacou and Philippos Athanasiades), 4. Financial Report, 5. Report of the Nominating Committee (Katherine Dermitzakis, Irene Poulakidas, and Tony Ambus) and 6. Meet our new Pastoral Assistant, Christo Pappademos.

St. John Kassianos (Cassian), The Conferences "The fourth (type of prayer) are thanksgivings. Unspeakable moved by the memory of God's past kindnesses, by the vision of what He now grants or by all that He holds out as a future reward to those who love Him, the mind gives thanks. In this perspective, richer prayers are often uttered. Looking with purest gaze at the rewards promised to the saints, our spirit is moved by measureless joy to pour out wordless thanksgiving to God."



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. Following this month's Community Kitchen, a regrouping meeting will take place, followed by the usual wine and cheese get-together.

Our guests count on us to provide them with a hot meal, and fellowship. May we, in turn, count on you? It is a commit-

ment; it does take a few hours of your time. But, think about how much good you can do for others by showing up and volunteering for a couple of hours.

Meanwhile, Community Kitchen enjoys the support of our Ladies Philoptochos. Our women's organization has taken on Community Kitchen as part of its local mission, underwriting the monthly Food Bank bills and additional purchased food products, as well as paper goods--table cloths, plates, plastic ware, cups, napkins, storage containers, baggies, foil, etc. In addition, Philoptochos recruits volunteers to assist the kitchen staff. Community Kitchen recently received a grant from A&T. We are grateful for the support, as it is another encouraging affirmation of the good work that is being done to combat hunger, isolation and, indirectly, homelessness.

In November Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, November 19, 5:30 p.m. for set up and 6:30 p.m. for serving. We look forward to your participation.



Why Be a Christian? A message for our kids

During my time spent working at various youth retreats and camps with kids from all different churches all across the US, there seems to be one common question in the back of every child's mind. All of our kids seem to be wondering, "Why should I be a Christian?"

At an increasing rate these days our kids are surrounded by peers at school who come from families with zero religious beliefs and so it is natural for our kids to wonder what "the big deal" is for us about going to church. It is easy for our kids to feel like a minority when it comes to being Christians. After all, if all of our school friends seem to be just fine without going to church, why should we bother?

Furthermore, it can be hard for us to understand what a man named Jesus who lived 2,000 years ago means to us today and how He applies to our daily lives.

This is a complex and rather all-encompassing question, but I will try my best to answer it. Before we start on our "answer" however, we must keep one thing in mind about the question. The question, as it is most often posed to me, assumes a sort of pressure. Every time I've heard a child ask this question, it is asked in the same tone that they might ask, "Why do I have to go to school?"

While there are indeed legal reasons for a child to go to school up until a certain age, there is actually no pressure, for any of us, to be a Christian. God does not "need" us to be Christians. He does not need us as some sort of validation. God existed before mankind, and He will exist after each one of us passes away. There may be pressure from our parents or grandparents, or we assume there is pressure from priests and bishops to be a Christian, but from God Himself there is actually no pressure to be a Christian.

God created us with something very special, He created us with free will. He created us to choose, think, and act voluntarily. So, by the way God made us we can choose to believe in Him and to be a Christian, or we can choose to not believe in Him and to live life without being a Christian.

Now, here is where our answer begins. Each human being exists with the innate desire to be loved. There is something deep in each of us that yearns for love, no matter how tough or cool we think we are. Society tells us that the ultimate love we seek will one day be fulfilled by a wonderful girlfriend or boyfriend who eventually becomes our wife or husband. But there are different kinds of love. The love of a girlfriend or boyfriend and later a wife or husband, is human love. This is not the love that we ultimately desire to feel. Human love is not perfect love. It is often conditional and it changes over time and with emotions.

The love that we are made to feel deep within us is Divine Love. This is a constant love that comes from God and it is unconditional. This means no matter what we do or what happens to us, God will love us. Often times, our friends and even family members love us when everything is going well. But when times get tough, we will find that the love of a friend can vanish out of nowhere. The love of God on the other hand, does not vanish, if we are open to receiving it.

So then, the short answer to our question "Why should I be a Christian?" can be stated as: "I should be a Christian so I can experience God's love in my life."

The subject of atheists and atheism was brought up to a monk on Mount Athos once. The question was asked if an atheist can truly believe that there is no God, to have zero faith that He exists. The monk replied, "I believe the atheist in his brain really believes there is no God. But even the atheist in his heart, whether he knows it or not, truly longs to believe in and feel the love of God."

Now we may be wondering what God's love has to do with the life of a man named Jesus some 2,000 years ago. Jesus Christ brought God's love to earth. Jesus healed the sick, fed the hungry, raised the dead, but most importantly He blessed the lowest people in society. Zacchaeus was a tax-collector and tax-collectors were considered to be to lowest of the low. Any regular person wouldn't be caught dead speaking to a tax-collector, for fear of ruining their reputation. Not only did Jesus speak to Zacchaeus the tax-collector, he decided to go to Zacchaeus' house for dinner. This was a huge honor back then. To go to someone's house for dinner meant you were proud to know that person. For the Son of God to honor the lowest member of society shows us how God's love reaches us even when we are at our lowest.

Although the events in Jesus' life happened 2,000 years ago, the messages from them ring loud and clear to us today. It just requires a closer look to understand them to see how they apply to us. Asking people who have spent considerable time examining and studying the events in Christ's life like our priests (or pastoral assistants) is the best way to learn how they apply to us.

Another reason why our kids may feel like being a Christian isn't necessary is because it simply isn't cool. All day long on Instagram and Snapchat our kids are bombarded by messages on how to look cool and be cool, and naturally not a single one of those messages has to do with believing in God or being a Christian.

To understand this we have to understand how Social Media works. The reason social media is so prevalent is because it thrives on self-love and jealousy. People naturally only post their best moments on social media. Special accomplishments, extravagant vacations, and loving relationships take over our news feeds all day every day. So our natural reaction to these posts is to compare our own lives with these highlight reels. It can spark in us feelings of jealousy little by little. We compare everything from our bodies to our relationships with an illusion of perfection and we are never satisfied.

Though there are benefits to social media like keeping in touch with friends and family, it unfortunately also plays this trick on us that has us *never* feeling good enough.

Our Orthodox faith, on the other hand, has the opposite effect on us. To God we are *always*, good enough. That is, He always loves us, no matter how low we are, as long as we are open to Him.

So no, being a Christian is not necessarily "cool", but we shouldn't be worried about that. Being cool is only capable of getting us that fleeting human love from peers who are fickle. But being a Christian allows us to receive Divine Love from God. God is not fickle with His love and it never leaves us.

Furthermore, social media has us always craving more. We want more likes, more followers, more posts, more more. But our Orthodox Faith teaches us to be happy with what we have. One way to experience God's love is to look at our lives and figure out the ways He has blessed us. In other words, searching for ways to thank God reveals to us the love He has for us.

A good practice on a simple level is to try and find one good thing in every single day to thank God for in a quick prayer before we go to bed at night. You will find that even on your worst days, a glimmer of God's love appears. Also, the more we *look* for good things, no matter how small they may be, the more we *see* good things in our lives.

To close a lengthy response to a short question, our Christian Faith sustains us. No, it won't get us likes on social media and no, our friends at school won't understand it but those are not factors that we should let influence us. Instead of being distracted by those things, we should be focused on seeking the love of God in our lives, we should be happy that we are Christians.

*In His love,
Christo*



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.



Dance Group News

Dancers of all ages are encouraged to attend Sunday School on Sundays. (Please refer to the special letter from Father Stephen that was distributed to all youth groups—dance, Sunday School, Greek School, basketball, GOYA, and JOY.) Those registered to serve in the altar as acolytes are invited to do so in accordance with the schedule found elsewhere in this *Herald*. Meanwhile, should you wish information about joining our program, we invite you to contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com.

Our groups, as presently composed, are as follows:

To Mellon: Pre-K-1st grade

Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 2nd-5th grade

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Trina Misthos and Eleni Taptelis

Thisavri: 5th-8th grade in

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 9th -12th grade

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Atithasi: Young Adults

This group will be activated this year, so that it may participate in FDF during President’s Day Weekend in 2020.

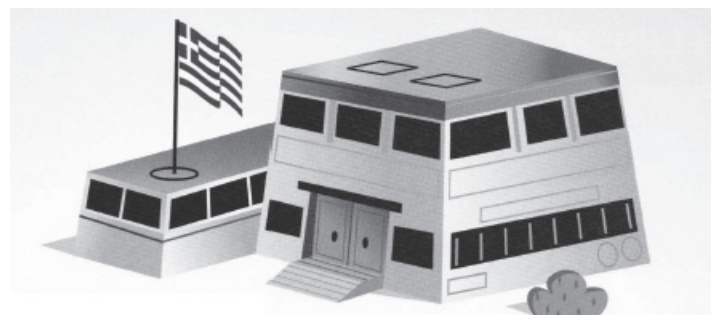
Greek School News

The 2019-2020 school year began on Saturday, September 7, 2019 with an enrollment of 40 students from both the adult and children classes! Students are busy learning the Greek language. As mentioned in the last Herald newsletter, we are proud of two of our students, Dimitra Janssens and Alexander Kasolas who successfully passed the A2 Greek proficiency exam.

We offer three different classes, all taught on Saturday mornings:

- Greek language for children
- Performing arts class for children which includes culture and language
- Greek language for adults

We hope that you will spread the word about our classes; we look forward to welcoming more students to our program!



σχολείο, το σχολείο, ένα σχολείο,
το μεγάλο σχολείο, το σχολείο μου



Our students learn by asking questions.



Hungry for knowledge about our Faith? Hungry for Faith? Come to Sunday School. The School is open every Sunday, as noted, and at the times noted.

Sunday School News

What a blessed start to the New School year for Sunday School! We now have a new teacher to welcome, Kelly Rakos, who is teaching our High School class again. We would also like to thank our new Pastoral Assistant, Christo, for his help with the Sunday School program. We now have a new toddler room with toys upstairs in the Sunday School wing for children under 4 to play supervised with a parent. This room has been furnished with the help of a donation from a parish member. We are so grateful for this gift! Now children who are young and restless in church may have a place to roam and play without disturbing liturgy. The cry room adjacent to the chapel is also getting some new furnishings thanks to this donation as well. This room could

also use a mural and we are looking for ideas or donations towards something that would brighten up the space.

Holiday Reminders - The week of Thanksgiving is no Sunday School. December 1 - Sunday School is closed. The Christmas Pageant & Sunday School Luncheon to be December 22nd. We will need volunteers to help both with the Pageant setup / costumes, and with preparing and cleaning up the luncheon. Please come see either Brittany or Zach if you would like to volunteer. December 8th, 15th and 22nd will be rehearsals for the Christmas Pageant happening during Sunday School. All regular Sunday School classes are not occurring during the month of December.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily 25, on the Gospel of St. Matthew
“Let us give thanks to God continually. For, it is outrageous that when we enjoy His benefaction to us in deed every single day, we do not acknowledge the favor with so much as a word; and this, when the acknowledgment confers great benefit on us. He does not need anything of ours, but we stand in need of all things from Him.”

St. Ambrose of Optina: “We must begin with thanksgiving for everything. The beginning of joy is to be content with your situation.”

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 or Christo

Our altar schedule for November is as follows:

November 3	-	Group 1
November 10	-	Group 2
November 17	-	Group 3
November 24	-	Group 4

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

Pappademos , Pastoral Asssistant, at Christo.pappademos@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!



Baptisms

James Dimitri Haniotis, son of Andrew and Sally Rose Pearce Haniotis, was baptized October 5. His Sponsor is Perry Roland (Orologas).

Zoe Marie Tsougarakis, daughter of Nicholas Anthony and Claire Elizabeth Simon Tsougarakis, was baptized on October 12. His Sponsor is Katherine Tsougarakis.

Na mas zisoun! Long life!

Marriage

The marriage of Aris Andrew Vellis and Kathleen Irene Naber-de Bane was blessed on October 19. Their Sponsor is Vivian Curd.

Na mas zisoun! Long life!

Funerals

Panagiotis Koutsoubos, who fell asleep in the Lord on September 23, was buried on September 30. He is survived by his sister, Sotiria Koutsoubos Loufas, and nephews and nieces.

Jack Nis Paulsen, who fell asleep in the Lord on September 28, was buried October 2. He is survived by his children, Stephen Paulsen and Cristine Miolla, and their children.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

Condolences

The Cathedral extends condolences to Mary Chicos and family, upon the falling asleep in the Lord of her daughter Demetria Chicos, on September 7.

The Cathedral extends condolences to Chrysanthe Tsiplakos and family, upon the falling asleep in the Lord of her husband, Jim, on September 29.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						Greek School 10 am
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12:30 pm Philoptochos, Messinian Meeting 12:30 pm		Dementia Support Group 11 am	Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm	Synaxis of the Angelic Powers, Liturgy 10 am	Greek School 10 am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12:30 pm			Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		Greek School 10 am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12:30 pm Parish Council, 12:30 p.m.		Community Kitchen 6:30 pm Young Adults 8 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm	Entrance of the Theotokos, Liturgy 10 am Church Basketball 7 pm		Greek School 10 am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice 12:30 pm Parish Assembly						The Apostle Andrew, Liturgy 10 am

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
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joyfully invite you to attend

Light the Path

a Christmas Luncheon in support of the
BISHOP ANTHONY PHILOPTOCHOS
STUDENT AID ENDOWMENT FUND

11:00 am

Saturday, November 23, 2019

Saint Paul's Greek Orthodox Church
Irvine, California

Saturday, December 7, 2019

Annunciation Cathedral
San Francisco, California

\$75 per person



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*"Your word is a lamp unto my feet,
and a light unto my path."*

Psalm 119:105