



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

JANUARY 2020

Archbishop Elpidophoros of America to Visit Annunciation Cathedral Jan. 26

As announced, 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 26. The Divine Liturgy that day will begin at 10 a.m. sharp, preceded by Orthros at 9 am. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy, we will host a luncheon to welcome His Eminence, 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, especially as we about to celebrate our 100th anniversary in 2021. During the luncheon, Annunciation's award-winning dance groups will present a brief preview of their 2020 FDF performances. Invitations to the luncheon have been mailed. Because we expect a record crowd, we urge you to reply as soon as possible, and before January 19. When we reach room capacity, we will have to stop taking reservations. In order to properly prepare we need you to reserve; we cannot accommodate walk-ins the day of the luncheon. Meanwhile, please be informed the seating will be open (that is, no table assignments), unless you purchase a table of 10 and then fill it with your *parea*. As His Eminence will need to leave by 2:30 pm for his return flight to New York, we will endeavor to get everyone fed and get the program underway in a timely manner. Once again, RESERVATIONS ARE MUST! We thank Angelo Koutoulas, of Chick 'N Coop, who will prepare and serve the luncheon.



Light the Path Luncheon

An Exquisite Event!

Everything was transformed into a winter wonderland. Above, the future fountain, located in the center of the courtyard, filled with Christmas flora and angels heralding the birth of the Messiah.

see page 3 for more



Celebrating our 100th at the Fabulous Fairmont: Save the Date: Sunday, October 10, 2021; Everyone is Invited to a Committee Meeting on January 12

The above photograph appeared in last month's *Herald*, as well. It was taken nearly 100 years ago, in the grand ballroom of San Francisco's Fairmont Hotel. It was taken on May 17, 1921. That day was a Tuesday. The purpose of the banquet was to celebrate the creation of the Cathedral. Two days later, on May 19, 1921 the creation of the Cathedral was formalized at a meeting of community leaders, under the presidency of Archbishop Meletios Metaxakis. He had been the Archbishop of Athens, but was removed from office by the Greek monarch as a result of a dispute between him and Eleftherios Venizelos. Metaxakis came to the United States and gathered Greeks who shared his views; together, they created four dioceses: San Francisco, Chicago, Boston, and New York.

In thinking through our 100th anniversary celebratory banquet, the committee thought it a no-brainer, to return to the

place where we were first established, the fabulous Fairmont! The exact date for our celebration in 2021 is Sunday, October 10, 2021. As it is a Sunday, a 5 pm reception is being planned, followed by dinner at 6 p.m. We must say, we were fortunate to find a date, as other dates were considered but the hotel was fully booked. Meanwhile, the committee, comprised of those who returned their reply forms stating how they would like to be involved, as well as other members of the community, will sit down to plan the details, not only of the banquet, but of other events which will be held in 2021 to mark our 100th anniversary. The first meeting will take place on Sunday, January 12. It will be held in the conference room, following the Divine Liturgy that day. Archon Orphanotrophos Paul Sogotis has been named General Chairman of our 100th anniversary celebrations. Do join us as we join hands and hearts and as we prepare to mark the first 100 years of our existence as a parish.

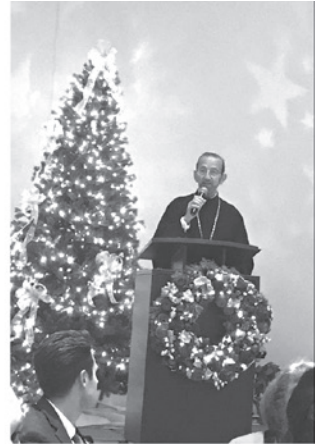
O earth and things upon the earth, dance ye and rejoice exceedingly. The River of joy is baptized in the stream: He dries up the fount of evil and pours forth divine remission. –Aposticha of Theophany, Tone Six

Light the Path Luncheon, December 7

An Exquisite Event!



A portion of the Korinthias Hall, transformed into a starry night, the night when Christ was born.



O come, all ye faithful.



Good friends.



What a great gathering!



Delicious!



Let the word go forth from this place.



Stewardship 2020

As we've often said, Stewardship defines our Orthodox Christian way of life. It begins by recognizing that everything is given to us by God. God gives us not only our life and our material possessions, but God also gives Himself. For, God give us His Son. Our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. Our response to God, then, is giving back. Giving back everything. Our life, in the form of discipleship. And those gifts with which God has endowed us: our Time, our Talents, and our Treasure. In this way, we make known to others the goodness which we have been shown. In this way, we invite others to join us in our way of life. As we all share in the greatest of all gifts—eternal life. The Church is the vehicle God has given us which unites all of us in relationship to God. The fullness of this relationship is made known to us in the Divine Liturgy. This is why it is so important for us to support the work of the Church. The Church is at the same time universal and, at the same time, local. We relate to the universal Church through our local Church. Which is why it is vital that we support our parish. And, so, the call for your 2020 Stewardship support has gone out. A brochure has gone out. Together with a Stewardship pledge card and a return envelope. And, being the faithful people that you are, you have begun responding. In the first month of our Stewardship campaign, we heard from 120 of you. That's about 1/3 of the total numbers of stewards we're counting on for the year 2020. And that's great! It speaks volumes about your commitment to the Annunciation Cathedral. It says a lot about your faith. May God bless you for it.

A couple of practical things, though. While we received 120 responses in the first month, not all of you signed a pledge card. A few of you simply wrote a check. And we thank you. In this case, we wrote out a card for you so that we have a card file for our stewards as well as an electronic file in Quick Books (the accounting program we use to track stewardship). In a couple of cases, we received cards with just your name and "same as last year." Well and good, EXCEPT for when you are asking us to charge your credit card. **We cannot charge your credit card without your expressed signed authorization.** And, so, we are asking you.

When you submit your stewardship, please do so by **filling out your stewardship pledge card**. If you are asking us to charge your credit card, **please provide the credit card number, the expiration date of the card, and please be sure to sign your card**. So, thank you for your kind cooperation, as we endeavor to better serve you. In our February issue, we will print a roster of Stewards 2020, as a way of saying "thank you" and also as a way of encouraging those who have not yet submitted their Stewardship for the New Year, to do so.



2020 New Year Greetings
 Best Wishes for a Happy & Healthy New Year and Thank you for your Faithful Support to help our Philoptochos be a true friend to those in need.

Ladies Philoptochos Society
 Annunciation Cathedral Chapter No. 4022

Caring for the Needy
 Promoting Philanthropy
 Preserving the Sanctity of the Family
 Perpetuating the Orthodox Faith

Executive Board Members

Janis Petrou, President; Vicki Holloway, Vice President;
 Kathy Dermitzakis, Vice President; Vivian Curd, Secretary;
 Meena Vellis, Secretary; Sophia Makras, Treasurer;
 Mariam Arsinoos, Asst. Treasurer; Patricia Aleck, Advisor

Board Members

Anastasia Dekaristos, Joanne Glafkides, Grace Koutoulas,
 Irene Kyriacou, Vicky Moulas, Liberty Nuris, Irene Poulakidas,
 Despina Poulos, Foula Vasilogiorgas

Honorary Board Members

Despina Kokalis, Rose Sogotis, Terpsi Varanis



*Ring in the New Year and order our
delicious, Traditional Vasilopita!*

Order by Sunday, December 22, 2019
Pick-up: Saturday, December 28th
(from 10am-12pm only) and
Sunday, December 29th after Divine Liturgy
(until 1:30 pm)

\$20.00 Each

Order forms can be picked up in the Narthex
Note: Vasilopita Coffee Hour, hosted by Philoptochos, will
take place on Sunday, January 5, 2020, immediately fol-
lowing the Divine Liturgy and the Blessing of the Waters.

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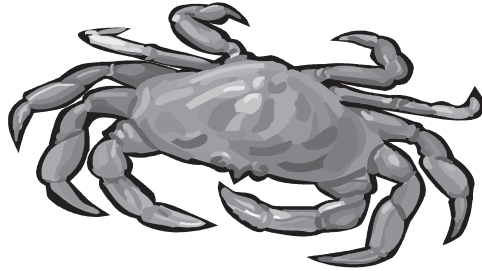
A group photo, showing members of the Philoptochos board and our local team of hosts, along with clergy present at the event, and their families.

The Annunciation Cathedral
Ladies Philoptochos presents its...

Annual Crab Feed

Friday, January 24, 2020

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 p.m. - Dinner: 7:00 p.m.



\$60.00 per person

RSVP by January 15, 2020

Reservations will only be secured by receipt of payment

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

✂-----✂

Print Name: _____ **Phone #:** _____

Address: _____

\$60.00 x _____ number of guests: \$ _____

\$600.00 x _____ number of tables: \$ _____

Check Enclosed for Total Amount of: \$ _____

Maximum 10 people per table

Please print name of each person on the back of this form

Mail completed reservation form and check payable to Annunciation Philoptochos to:
Annunciation Cathedral, Attn: Crab Feed, 245 Valencia St., San Francisco, CA 94103

For additional Information and Reservations

Call 415.864.8000 or email Sophia Makras at annunciation2020crabfeed@gmail.com



The Good News: Garage Passes Inspection

On December 3rd, the Fire Inspector and Electrical Inspector both signed off and passed us on their inspections. The next step is approval from the Building Department which will be followed by approval from the Police Department. As soon as the garage is open, we will be sending out special notifications to our parishioners and friends of the Cathedral.

We've stated previously how the garage will be run. Golden State Parking has been approved as the operator, under our conditional use permit. They will operate it, initially, under a 6-month trial contract. Based on our experience, that is, utilization of the garage, we will negotiate a longer-term contract. Meanwhile, the final gates will be installed the beginning part of December, along with the base granite, as well as the lobby doors. Meanwhile, the lobbies and the stairs leading to and from the garage have been carpeted. And, later on in the month, the elevator will be inspected, thus completing the clear path of travel requirements. And our garage will be up and running. Thank you, Lord. At long last!

The Bad News: Water Everywhere

On December 7, we experienced torrential rains. So much so that, as people went to retrieve their cars, following the Light the Path luncheon, there was water everywhere. The Architect came by immediately and saw what was happening. Most of the water was coming in from the courtyard, because the courtyard drains were not properly draining. A few drops were also seen coming down from the roof ridges. This was all documented in writing and on camera. The contractors were immediately notified. The onus is on them to make the necessary repairs. They are contractually obligated to take care of the leaks. Once all of this has been taken care of satisfactorily, then we can proceed to consider work on the interior. Our Parish Council has been discuss-

see page 8



Overall view of the interior following the rains on December 7.



Water from above found its way into the garage.

from page 7

ing these issues extensively and is in contact with both Architects and Contractors, as we move forward with our building project. Meanwhile, we have put off engraving the additional courtyard pavers, until the courtyard drainage situation has been addressed.

The following is what the Architects wrote us, in part, following the rains on December 7:

"I just returned from Annunciation. The water in the garage is leaking down from the flooded worship space above through primarily openings in the floor for the mechanical system and, in a few places, through cracks in the concrete. The garage itself appears to not be leaking except a bit under the rear stair.

I believe that at least one courtyard drain near the north entry doors to the worship space is clogged, because water is building up near those doors on top of the courtyard and flowing like a river into the church, flooding the entire church. I have a video of water flowing down the central ramp into the church. There are also a few minor roof leaks which need to be fixed, but those are just a few drops leaking down and would not result in the major flooding we saw today. Elsewhere in the courtyard there was not standing water, such as near the doors into the existing building, whose floor remained dry. The exact same pavers and permeable grout was used there, and the water did not build up and flow into the existing building. So, there must be at least one if not more than one clogged courtyard drains near the north entry into the church. McNely will need to pull up pavers near our drain locations and investigate. I am also going to have them use paver pedestals with no grout to support the first three rows of pavers near the north entry doors, in case this ever happens again."



At a recent meeting of the Capital Campaign Committee.

biblical
religious
believe
faith
Theology
God
preach
spirituality
worship

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.

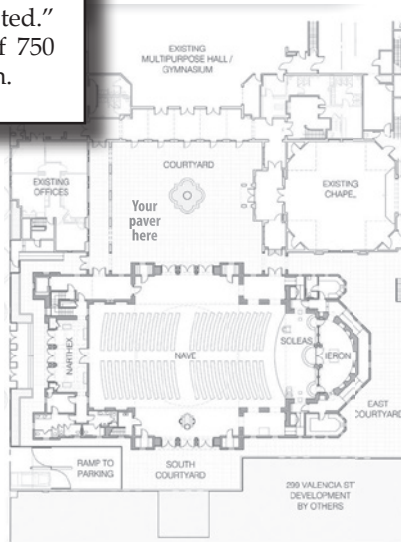
The class meets two times a month. The meetings take place in the Cathedral's conference room, located on the second floor, adjacent the elevator. The times are 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Classes will take place on Sunday, January 12 and on Sunday, January 19.

Adopt a Paver

It's quite simple. For a gift of \$2,000.00 to the Building Fund, parishioners and friends of the Cathedral may have their name(s) inscribed in one of the courtyard pavers. Each paver can accommodate up to 25 letters per line (including spaces and commas). Up to 3 lines may be inscribed. No logos. The inscription of the pavers, presently, is taking place in the courtyard, around the fountain. Eventually, they will continue around the new Cathedral. What a wonderful way to have your or your family's name memorialized, and to support the Building Program at the same time. We are pleased to inform you that, as of the printing of this issue of the Herald, we have 80 pavers "adopted." That's about 10% of our total goal of 750 pavers. We welcome your participation.



Create your own custom paver and support the Cathedral



A one-time tax-deductible donation of \$2,000 per paver.

PAVERS WILL NOT BE INSCRIBED UNTIL FULL DONATION IS RECEIVED.

THE LOCATION OF YOUR PAVER WILL BE RANDOMLY ASSIGNED. THE INITIAL 750 PAVERS WILL BE PLACED IN THE CATHEDRAL COURTYARD, AND WILL BE INSCRIBED FROM THE WEST FACING EAST.

Logos may be added to your paver for an additional cost. Ask for details.

ALL PAVER MESSAGES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CATHEDRAL.

PAVER DETAILS

750

2 FT. X 2 FT.

PAVERS WILL BE PLACED IN THE CATHEDRAL COURTYARD.

You may inscribe up to 3 lines of text with 25 letters or spaces per line. Each paver will be block text engraving in dove gray.

Join our community's collective voice:

I, _____ want to Support our **Annunciation Cathedral Building Program** by "Adopting an Annunciation Paver". Contribution will be added to my Annunciation Cathedral Building Program Pledge Contribution, for tax purposes.

By check for \$2,000 or By 2 checks for \$1,000 each

Payable to "Annunciation Cathedral Building Program"

By \$2,000 credit card charge

Name on credit card _____

Card: Amex Visa Mastercard

Acct # _____

Valid thru Date ____/____/____ Security Code _____

Write your message below. PRINT each letter separately and legibly. Spaces are counted as one (1) character. There are up to 25 characters per line totaling 75 total characters. Please refer to the sample below for additional direction. The print will be in capital letters.

SAMPLE

				T	H	E		P	A	P	P	A	S		F	A	M	I	L	I										
J	O	H	N	,	E	L	E	N	I	,	T	O	M	,	C	A	R	O	L	,	B	O	B							
W	E			L	O	V	E			T	H	E		A	N	N	U	N	C	I	A	T	I	O	N					

I confirm that the above PRINTED letters and spaces are correct.

Signature _____

Date _____

Please complete the above form and make your checks payable to:

Annunciation Cathedral

245 Valencia St. ♦ San Francisco, CA 94103

Or make your payment online at "Adopt a Paver": www.annunciation.org/the-new-cathedral/donations



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 January meeting will take place on Tuesday, January 7. For more information, please contact Heather Gray, Family Program Manager, at 1.800.272.3900 or email her at hgray1@alz.org.

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council Elections Held: Nine Elected

Parish Council elections took place on Sunday, December 15. Nine parishioners in good standing were elected to a two-year term, beginning January 1. They are: Deno Konstantinidis, Anastasios (Tasso) Mavroudis, Andrew Miltiades, Thomas Nuris, Jim Rakos, Mike Sarikakis, Paul Sogotis, Nicholas Svetcoff and James D. Vorrises. They will take their oath of office at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 5. Immediately following, they will convene in the conference room and join those who were elected in 2018 to a two-year term, namely, Geoerge Ambadiotakis Ambus, S. Christopher Kyriacou, John Lampros, Dean Nicolacakis, Manoli Nuris, Peter Cazanis, and Nicholas J. Rally, and elect officers for 2020. The offices are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. They will also volunteer to take on at least one committee chairmanship. The Parish Council committees consist of: 100th Anniversary Committee, Stewardship, Technology, Strategic Planning, Estate Planning, Protocol, Youth, School Relations (Millennium, Waldorf), Buildings and Grounds, Capital Campaign/Fund Raising, Construction,, Education Committee (Greek School, Sunday School, Religious Education), Hall Management/Rentals, City and State Relations (Assembly and other permits: Business License, Secretary of State filings, White Zone, Regulatory Matters) and Insurance. We wish our newly constituted Parish Council well as they endeavor to work, along with our Dean, to manage the various aspects of managing our parish.

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



Members of Annunciation Cathedral's GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America), under the direction of Matia Stamatakis, prepare to serve at the November Community Kitchen. Some 130 guests were served a hot meal.

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 AT&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 January Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, January 21, 5:30 p.m. for set up and 6:30 p.m. for serving. We look forward to your participation.

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



ONLINE REGISTRATION: <http://gosfyouth.org/young-adult-winter-retreat>

FACEBOOK PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2696461253751500/>

COST: \$265 includes 3 nights lodging (Fri, Sat, and Sun) and all meals except lunch Saturday & Sunday since we will be out exploring Lake Tahoe both afternoons. Price does not include lift ticket.

SPEAKER: Fr. Nick & Presvytera Dena Mueller, from the Ascension Cathedral in Oakland, CA

THEME: "Practicing the Presence of God"

The business of our lives often distracts us from developing a relationship with God. We will explore how we can practice prayerfully being present with God, so that, as St. James writes, we will not "in the midst of a busy life, wither away" (James 1:11)



Young Adult Retreat January 17-20

Registration is open for the 15th Annual Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe, January 17-20, 2020.

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

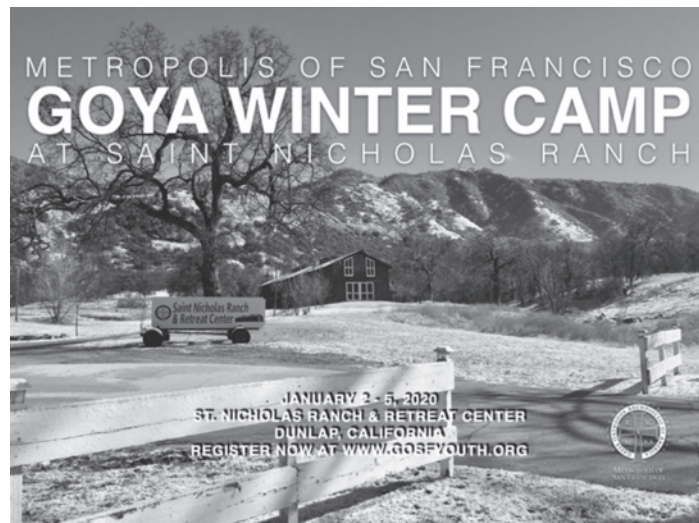
DATE: January 17-20, 2020 - MLK Weekend

LOCATION: Galilee Episcopal Camp & Retreat Center, South Lake Tahoe

ARRIVAL TIME: Friday beginning at 5:30pm

DEPARTURE TIME: Monday 9:30am

AGES: 18-30's



DATES: January 2-5, 2020

LOCATION: St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA

AGES: Open to all youth, grades 6th-12th

COST: \$250 per person** (must be paid in full by Dec 27)

REGISTRATION: <http://gosfyouth.org/goya#/goya-winter-camp>

CAMPER CHECK-IN TIME: Thursday 3:00pm - 7:00pm

CAMPER PICK UP TIME: Sunday 1:00pm - 2:00pm (Parents can join us for Liturgy on Sunday morning at the Monastery if they would like)

FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE: <https://www.facebook.com/events/410960669567451/>

PARISH CARPOOLING RECOMMENDED

SPEAKER: Cassandra Garibaldi - Resources Coordinator for the Archdiocese Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

THEME: "Marks of a true Christian" Romans 12:9-19



Great to be together.



What a turnout!





Christmas in Charles Dickens' time.



Lunch break



The early birds.



The group grows.



Tea with Queen Victoria.



What a good feeling...to be of service.



Preparing to-go packets. In December, the packets were prepared by Justin Bosl and his team, in concert with FOCUS.



GOYA kids busy packaging some of the to-go bags.



Members of our GOYA pause for a photo.



It is a joy to serve.

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



Sunday School News

January is always a special month - a new beginning to the year, a fresh start, a blessing of the waters. It always starts with such fanfare in fireworks at New Years, and the song Auld Lang Syne which many of my Scottish relatives probably brought to the new world a few hundred years ago. It translates into 'the times gone by'. In our church and up in Sunday School on the first day back of the New Year we will cut the Vasilopita, that Teacher Maria Allen brings every year. We will cut our Vasilopita upstairs on January 12th, as there is no Sunday School December 29th and January 5th so everyone can be with their families for the holidays. We will also not have class on January 26th for the Archbishop's visit to our church.

Early this month, we have the Blessing of the Waters, on January 6, the Feast known as Theophany. It is one of the most beautiful traditions that the Orthodox faithful observe every year. The waters are blessed in our churches. Indeed, all the waters throughout the world are blessed when the priest throws the cross into the waters, recalling the baptism of Christ. Christ, who was without sin, showed us the way to be spiritual cleansing and renewal, when He was baptized in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. Because Christ had no sin from which to be cleaned, the water itself was cleansed by His presence. Do explain the significance of this with your children. Rejoice together at the wondrous work of God, who created everything, including the earth's water, and Who blessed it with His Son's baptism. Let us all remember how sacred water is to life, as we to ask for God's blessing, especially in our day, when clean water is becoming more and more scarce.

In January, we are also going to get together a group to go march in the Martin Luther King Jr. parade in San Francisco. It happens on MLK Day. During Sunday School we are also planning lessons for all the kids on Dr. King's work as a preacher as well as a civil rights leader. Nowadays in the schools, his work as a career Baptist minister is sidelined to concentrate on his civil rights work. But his faith was actually central to his message, as was God. Let us remember on our march that Archbishop Iakovos, who was the Archbishop of North and South America, marched with Dr. King himself back when they were both fighting for civil rights.

We leave you with this, the last of Dr. King's sermon, I've Been to the Mountain Top, delivered the day before he was assassinated.

"..... I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it really doesn't matter with me now, because I've been to the mountain top. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would

like to live a long life; longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight that we as a people will get to the promised land. And I'm happy tonight, I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord."



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.

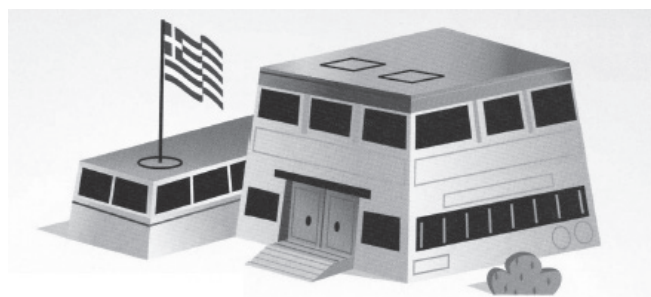
Greek School News

Greek School held its annual Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 14. This year, the celebration included our newest members to the Greek school - adults!

Each class from Pre-K to Prep Level B recited poems. We then ended the celebration by singing Greek Christmas and New Year's carols:

Τα παραδοσιακά Κάλαντα Χριστουγέννων and Τα Κάλαντα της Πρωτοχρονιάς

We hope all of our families have a wonderful Christmas holiday and a happy new year! Greek school will resume on Saturday, January 4, 2020.



σχο-λεί-ο, το σχολείο, ένα σχολείο,
το μεγάλο σχολείο, το σχολείο μου



Καλήν εσπέραν, Αρχοντες...



Καλά Χριστούγεννα και ευτυχές το Νέον Έτος.



Να τα πούμε;

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου, Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερῶθη προσκύνησις. Τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι, ἀγαπητὸν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα, καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἶδει περιστεῶς ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανείς, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, καὶ τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας, δόξα σοι. --Απολυτίκιον τῶν Θεοφανείων Ἦχος Α΄.

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 Pappademos, Pastoral Assistant, 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!



Our altar schedule for January is as follows:

January 5	-	Group 1
January 12	-	Group 2
January 19	-	Group 3
January 26	-	Group 4

Our altar groups are as follow:

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

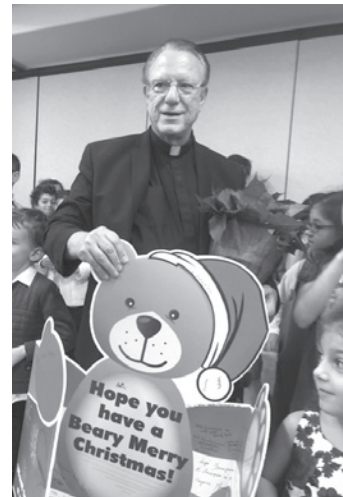
Group 2- Christopher Apostolos Percia, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, Matheos Zarou, Andonis Ambus

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



Sacraments and services

Funerals

Patricia Jane Lazarakis, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 4, was buried December 11. She is survived by two sisters-in-law and eight nephews and nieces.

Georgette Derdevanis, who recently fell asleep in the Lord, was buried December 19. She is survived by her brother, Philip Derdevanis.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		Greek School 10 am
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Vasilopita, Parish Council Oath of Office	Holy Theophany: Orthros 9 am Blessing of the Waters 10 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am	Synaxis of St. John the Baptist: Divine Liturgy 10 am Dementia Support Group 11 am	Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		Greek School 10 am
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am			Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		Greek School 10 am
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am Parish Council 12:30 pm			Church Basketball 7 pm		Crab Feed 6 pm reception 7 pm dinner	Greek School 10 am
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Orthros 9 am Archbishop Elpidophoros, celebrant Luncheon to follow Liturgy			Church Basketball 7 pm	Church Basketball 7 pm		



Icon of the Baptism of Christ. The Feast is known as Holy Theophany, for God manifests Himself as Trinity. The Baptism is recorded in all four Gospels. God the Father is made known when He says: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (cf. Matthew 3:17). The Son is, of course, Jesus of Nazareth, who comes to the Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist. And the Holy Spirit appears as a dove (cf. Luke 3:22). This Great Feast is also known as Epiphany, from the Greek ἐπεφάνη, which means "appeared." In St. Paul's letter to Titus for example (2:11) we read: For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people.