



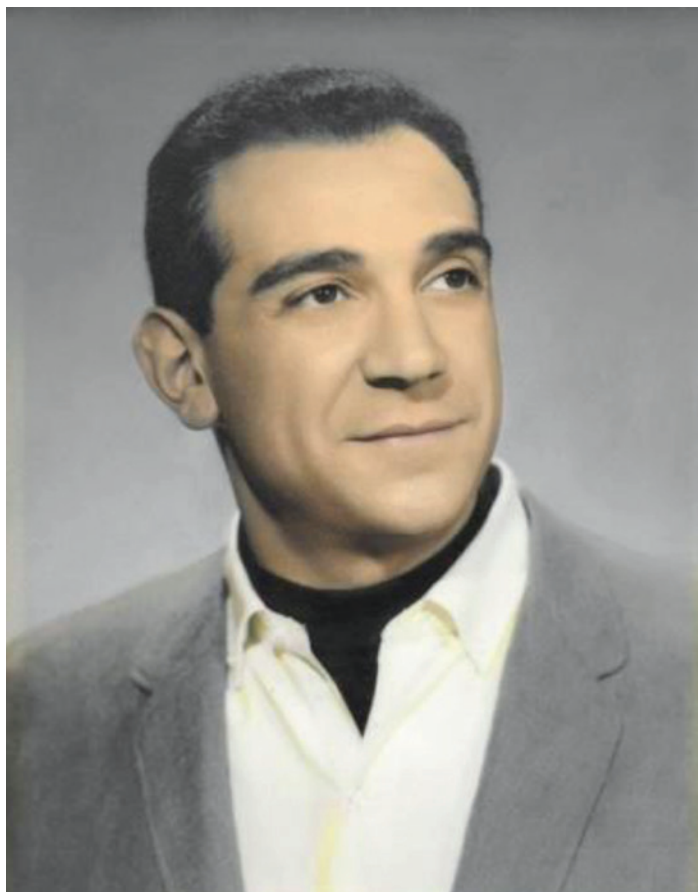
# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

AUGUST 2020

## Sam F. George (October 3, 1928 – March 18, 2020) Bequeaths \$1.5 Million to Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund



Shortly before his falling asleep in the Lord on March 18, Sam invited Father Stephen to his home and shared with him that, due to an illness, he was preparing to depart this world. He told Father that he was leaving something in his will which he hoped would help towards completing the Cathedral. Father Stephen assured him we are making every effort to complete the rebuilding, thanked him, prayed with him, administered Holy Communion, asked Sam to intercede for us, even as we will continue to pray for him, and left the room. His niece, Nancy Jacobs, who was present, shared with Father the amount of Sam’s gift: \$1.5 million. This is the second largest gift to the Cathedral in its history. It comes from a man who for years was a “quiet supporter,” who now takes his place “among the memorable founders and great benefactors of this holy church.” At the appropriate time, the *platytera* (the apse behind the altar in the new Cathedral) will be dedicated to Sam, in memory. As the present pandemic did not allow for a funeral to take place at the time of his burial (Father Stephen was quarantined, following a visit to his doctor, who tested positive), Father Stephen and Christo Pappademos, the Cathedral’s Pastoral Assistant, visited Sam’s grave and conducted funeral service, on May 19, 2020. May Sam’s generosity inspire others and may his memory be eternal! NB: It must be stressed that Sam’s bequest is being made to the Building Fund and is, therefore, restricted (it may not be used for operations). It has not yet been received. What has been received, to date, is a copy of his trust, forwarded by Sam’s attorney.

*Continued on page 4*

## No Festival (in real time), but Our Award-winning Ad Book will keep us all Connected

Even though we will not be able to hold our Food Festival in September, we will, nevertheless, be publishing an Ad Book, which is a big hit year after year, in addition to its being a major source of funding for the Cathedral’s ministries. Entitled *Physically Distant; Spiritually Connected*, the book is being printed in this, our 99th year as a community, which we are also celebrating. In addition to your ads and sponsorship pages, the book will also contain a directory of the parishioners and friends of the Cathedral. We invite you to be creative: instead of the usual “best wishes for a successful festival,” consider a photo or two of your being sheltered in place during this COVID-19 pandemic, along with a narrative of how you’re coping, how you continue to maintain your connections with one another. Contracts will be coming to you by mail with a deadline of September 15. You may also complete and return the form found in this issue of the

OUR 2019 AD BOOK WAS  
A SMASHING SUCCESS!



*Physically Distant;  
Spiritually Connected:  
2020 Adbook*

*see page 4*

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# Honor Roll of 2020 Stewards

While we endeavor to be 100% accurate, it's possible we may have inadvertently omitted a name. Please bring this to our attention. To learn more about Stewardship, and how you may become a Steward of the Annunciation Cathedral, please visit: [www.annunciation.org](http://www.annunciation.org).

Aleck, Demetria  
Aleck, Patricia  
Allen, Maria & Andrew  
Ambus, Anthony & Zetta  
Ambus, Dr. Antonia  
Armatas, Dr. Christina  
Arsinoos, Mariam  
Arvanitidis, Athena & Nicholas  
Arvantelis, Agapi  
Asimakopoulos, Vasilios  
Asimos, Chrisula  
Athnasiades, Philip & Diala  
Bagatelos, Karen  
Bagatelos, Michael  
Balakas, Helen & Rodney Evets  
Balian, Annamarie & Robert  
Balian, Nicholas M.  
Banks, Bradley  
Barlas, Constantine  
Bazgan, George  
Bissas, Maria  
Boutiette, Mary Ann  
Bozionelos, Jim & Florika  
Bratis, Denise P.  
Bratis, Peter D.  
Cardellini, Marie  
Carter, Eleni Larissopoulos  
Cazanias, Katerina & Peter  
Charitou, Haralambos  
Chechile, Cory & Dimitra Farmas  
Cheong, Bryan  
Cocoles, Jim & Luba  
Condon, Susan & Martin  
Contos, Christopher  
Cruz, John  
Curd, Vivian & John  
Cusulos, Nan  
Dakis, Elli  
Dalianes, Athan & Marguerite  
Damalas, Alexander  
Danielidis, Maria  
Daras, Maritsa  
Davies, Ethel  
De-Simone, Giovanna  
Decker, Christina  
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie  
Demakas, George D.  
Demetry, Andrew  
Dermitzakis, Katherine  
Destein, Patricia  
Dhawan, Anirudh & Brittany

Dhimitri, Anila  
Dimitriou, Agnes  
Doukas, Steve  
Drogitis, Joanne  
Duecker, Kurt & Theodora Vriheas  
Economides, Nicholas & Janine  
Economou, Chris  
Efstratis, Jenny, Greg & Alexi  
Eliopoulos, Annette & John  
Eliopoulos, Louie  
Eliopoulos, Peter John  
Elite, Dr. Anthony  
Fanourgiakis, Mike & Dimitra  
Fisher, Gary & Alex Zaphiris, M.D.  
Fkiaras, Evgenia N  
Fotenos, James F.  
Fousekis, Vlasias & Kalliope  
Fousekis, Shareen & Spiros  
Fragakis, Charalambos & Marianthe  
Franco, Mr. & Mrs. Michael  
Franco, Helen  
Galanis, Angelike  
Garibaldi, David & Kathie  
Garibaldi, Nicole & Michael  
Gazulis, Theodore & Christine  
Georgatos, Nicko M. & Chrisoula  
George, Sam (Deceased)  
Georgiadis, John & Sophia  
Gikas, Paul & Meltem  
Glafkides, Mr. & Mrs. Constantine  
Glaros, Stanley  
Grampsas, Bonnie  
Gumas, Alexandra  
Haginicols, Leo  
Haralabopoulos, Peter  
Haralambopoulos, Constantine & Eleftheria  
Haramis, Maria  
Haras, Louis & Panagiota  
Hernandez, Mr. Jose & Sofia Kleftogionne  
Hillas, Patrick  
Holland, Michael  
Holloway, Vicki Eleni  
Iovan, Diana A.  
Janssens, Anthi  
Johns, Mr. & Mrs. John  
Kallas, Louise  
Kalligeros, George  
Kamenis, Steve & Eleni  
Kanakis, Evangelia & Peter  
Karas, Angelus  
Karas, Bill

Karas, Chris  
Karas, Eva  
Karas, Joanna  
Karas, Kathy  
Karas, Tom & Eleni  
Karsant, Dr. & Mrs. Constantine  
Kasaris, Mary  
Kasolas, Michael & Stella  
Kastoras, Athanasios & Niki  
Katsanis, Gari  
Kavalaris, James & Joanne  
Kenney, Danae & Knute  
Keramari, Mr. & Mrs. Demitrios  
Kleinekorte, Mr. & Mrs. Richard  
Klobuchar, Michael & Georgette  
Kokalis, Despina Nick  
Konstantinidis, Deno C. & Bella  
Kontonis, Mr. & Mrs. Andreas  
Kontonis, Mr. & Mrs. Nick  
Kontrafouris, Athanasios & Joyce  
Kosaris, Paul & Irene  
Kostakis, Stamatia  
Kotsonis, Dr. Peter & Shu Yeung  
Kottas, Angelos  
Koulos, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Paul  
Koupas, Evelyn  
Kouropoulos, Georgia  
Koutoulas, Angrlo & Victoria  
Koutoulas, Dina  
Koutoulas, Kosta F. & Grace  
Koutoulas, Kosta P. & Stephanie  
Koutoulas, Panagiota  
Koutoulas, Pete & Voula  
Kozak, Alexandros & Erin  
Kyriacou, Chris & Irene  
Kyriacou, Justin & Carla  
Kyriacou, Rev. Stephen & Alik  
Lampros, Katherine T.  
Lampros, John & Magda  
Lawrence, Effie & Stephen  
Leventis, Angie & Theodore  
Lingas, Elena O.  
& Zachary H Weiner  
Lyberopoulos, Bob & Lea  
Makras, Effie  
Makras, Elaine  
Makras, Sophie  
Makras, Thalia  
Makras, Victor & Farah  
Mandanis, Christina & Greg  
Manetas, Mr. & Mrs. Peter

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Marcopulos, Cynthia  
Mares, Kathryn & William  
Markanton, Helen  
Mathios, Anthony & Patricia  
Mattis, Mr. & Mrs. George  
Mavrakakis, Mary  
Mavroudis, Aglaia  
Mavroudis, Tasso & Natalia  
McBride, Katherine  
McKnight, Nektarios L.  
Melitas, Irene  
Mellos, Faye  
Meyer, Beverly A.  
Miltiades Andrew & Katy  
Misthos, Katerina  
Misthos, Michael & Christina  
Morales, Helen  
Morales, John  
Moulas, Vasiliki  
Moulas, Vicky A.  
Mountanos, Michael S. & Erika  
Mourgos, George & Dena  
Mouroufas, Tula  
Nager, Perri  
Nashawati, Bashar & Roud  
Navarrette, Melina Kostourakis  
Nicolas, Helen  
Nicolas, Rita  
Novo, Dustin & Chrisula Bissas  
Nuris, Manoli  
Nuris, Manuel & Teia  
Nuris, Thomas & Liberty  
Oetzel, Robert & Pauline  
Oliver, Christopher & Elena  
Orologas, Maria  
OSSIPOFF, Alexander & Lula  
Panagiotopoulos, Antoni & Sotiria  
Panagiotopoulos, Antonio  
Panagiotopoulos, George  
(Deceased) & Demetra  
Panagiotopoulos, Jim and Erika  
Panagiotopoulos, Magdalini  
Panomitros, John & Helen  
Pantages, Mr. & Mrs. Peter  
Papadakis, Emanuel  
Papadakis, Spiros  
Papageorge, Petros & Nicole  
Papageorgiou, Dr. Sophia  
Papavasiliou, George & Lea  
Papayannis, Pericles & Zoey  
Pappas, Voula  
Papingu, Robert & Alma  
Pappademos, Christo  
Paras, Demetra  
Paras, Helen  
Parashis, Marion  
Patiris, Yiota

Patropulos, Joan  
Pavlakos, Rose  
Peters, Kenneth & Polymiti  
Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert  
Petrou, Janis G.  
Philliou, Jim & Patricia  
Piccinini, Pamela  
Polyzos, Maria & Jason  
Pope, Agalia  
Pope, Antoinette  
Poulakidas, Dean  
Poulakidas, Jennifer  
Poulakidas, Sakee & Irene  
Poulos, James & Despina  
Prountzos, Jimmy & Georgia  
Proutnzos, George & Pat  
Rakos, Jim & Kelly  
Rally, Nicholas & Patty  
Ramaglino, Irene & Robert  
Ramos, Herbert & Maria  
Rangaswami, M & K Desby  
Rangaves, Mr. & Mrs. George  
Razis, Harklia  
Sarantinos, Alexis  
Sarikakis, Emilia  
Sarikakis, Mike & Katerina  
Shatara, Nader & Sawsan  
Simotas, Demetrios  
Simotas, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry  
Siouris, Michele Y.  
Skinas, Mr. & Mrs. Kosmas  
Sogotis, James  
Sogotis, Rose  
Sogotis, Paul & Evangelia  
Spirakis, Maria  
Spona, Madeline E.  
Stamatopoulos, Anna  
Stathopoulos, Marios & Anastasia  
Stavrides, Marilena  
Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Peter C.  
Stratakis, Ari & Marcy  
Svetcoff, Nicholas  
Tamaras, Joy  
Tamareisis, Dorothy  
Taptelis, Tom & Helen  
Tarlson, Nick G. & Mauna  
Tasso, Jimmy & Molly  
Taylor, Edward (Deceased)  
Thomas, James  
Thompson, Stephanie & Jeff  
Tombropoulos, Helen  
Tonas, Basil & Mary  
Tsagaris, Eleni  
Tsagaris, Aphrodite  
Tsiatis, Athanasios & Christina  
Tsifourdaris, Spiros & Aristeia  
Tsokas, Georgia

Vafiadis, Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos  
Varanis, Terpsi  
Vardakastanis, Bobby & Katerina  
Vardakatsanis, Dimitri & Penelope  
Vasilogiorgis, Foula  
Vastardis, Rachel  
Vavuris, Mr. & Mrs. James  
Vellis, Aris  
Vellis, Costas & Meena  
Verreos, Adrienne  
Vlahos, Cynthia  
Vlahos, George  
Vlahos, William & Julie  
Vorrisis, Angelo J.  
Vorrisis, Denis J. & Renee  
Vorrisis, George & Loula  
Vorrisis, Louise & James  
Vorrisis, Marie & Lukehart, Ryan  
Vorrisis, Stephanie Louise  
Vozaites, Antonios & Thalia  
Vriheas, Loula  
Weldezghi, Andy & Lula Musgun  
Wertz, Robert & Tina  
Wilson, Tyler & Ylenia Marinos  
Yannaghas, Mary  
York, Bessie  
Zapantis, John & Mary  
Zarikos, Panagiotis & Angie  
Zarou, Andrew & Evangelia  
Zografos, Judi, Sam & Taso  
Zografos, Evanthia  
Zoto, Sarah Beth



*"Why I continue to pledge  
during these times"  
— A message on the  
importance of Stewardship*

from Maria Polyzos

*see next page*

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(Sam George, continued from page 1)

The following information about Sam appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle from Mar. 27 to Mar. 29, 2020:

Sam was born in Chicago, Illinois, on October 3, 1928. He was the loving son of the late Jacob and Nanajan George and brother of the late Florence George Jacobs. Sam attended LeMoyné School and later graduated from Lakeview High School in Chicago. The George family moved to San Francisco and lived for many years on Irving Street. He bought the house in Westlake Estates in 1962 for his parents, and resided there until his recent passing. He was a military veteran, serving in the U.S. Army in Germany at the rank of Specialist. He returned home after his service to take over the family's grocery store on Balboa Street. When the store was eventually sold, he went to work for the Gallo Wine Sales Company and became a district manager. He later went to work for Berkeley Farms, also as a district manager. He was a great friend to many and contributed to many worthy charities. His best friend and cousin, Margaret George, died in 2018. He was a dear and true friend to all who knew him. He had a wonderful, mischievous sense of humor and a very generous heart. He loved to go out to restaurants (hold the vegetables and no meal was complete without dessert), drove beautiful cars and a new "RED" truck. In his younger years, Sam loved playing tennis and skiing. A handsome man, he always dressed impeccably. He is survived by his niece, Nancy Jacobs, nephew, Kevin Jacobs (Sherri); great-nephew Kenneth Jacobs, cousins Gilbert George, Philip George and Kathy McCarty and many, many great and dear friends who will miss him always.

A memorial service and a fitting tribute will be organized at the Cathedral of the Annunciation after the current health situation is settled.

**St. Gregory preached on the Dormition. We reprint excerpts of this sermon here.**

*If 'precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints' (Ps. 116:15), and 'the memory of the just is praised' (Prov. 10:7), how much more fitting is it for us to celebrate with highest honors the memory of the ever-virgin Mother of God, the Holy of Holies, through whom the saints receive their hallowing? That is exactly what we are doing today by commemorating her holy dormition and passing away, through which, having been made a little lower than the angels (cf. Ps. 8:5), she rose incomparably higher than the angels, archangels, and all the heavenly powers above them, because of her nearness to the God of all (cf. Rom. 9:5) and the marvels written of old which were accomplished in her.*

(Ad Book, from page 1)

Herald [see opposite page]. As for payment, you may pay by check, credit card (noting the information on the form), or on line: list [www.annunciation.org](http://www.annunciation.org); Support Annunciation Cathedral. As the Cathedral has been especially hard hit economically, due to COVID-19, in the absence of a festival, your support, by placing an ad in the book, will help keep us afloat, financially, for the duration of 2020. Equally importantly, it will keep us connected. For the time being, we may be physically distant, but we continue, as a community, to remain spiritually connected!

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*"Why I continue to pledge" from page 3*

As a child, I fondly remember the late Mrs. Cherry Tsokas sneaking hard candies from her pockets into my grubby little hands in the halls of church when no one was looking. I was given compliments from the late Anna Mountanos on my hat and my outfit matching for Palm Sunday service (she was a big fan of hats). Small Christmas gifts from our Sunday school teachers always miraculously appeared around the holidays and a never-ending Sunday banquet of cookies and pastries was as reliable as the mail. As children and young adults, it was easy to see what we were getting out of our time spent at church on Sundays. It was tangible treats and attention, lessons in morality that always went above our heads, and a constant safe space to socialize and explore our culture.

As an adult with my own children now, these physical rewards are replaced with ones we cannot see. I know now that every little Sunday school lesson I ever learned is finally churning its way through my atrophied brain and making itself a source of comfort for me. I know that my beautiful icons of our Παναγία give me a renewed hope, when I wake up and glance at them, that there are brilliant minds working around the clock to save lives. Much of what I learned in life I learned through Yosemite camping trips, dance competitions, Sunday school and generally having a safe and loving community to be with at church.

We must not allow the paralyzing effect of the pandemic to make us forget that without our giving, so many will not receive. It is now more important than ever, now when there truly is no tangible reward for our monetary contributions, to sustain our giving so that our beautiful church will be waiting with open arms ready to serve us again.

God asks us to give of ourselves what we can; our time, our wealth, our efforts. This is not a time when we can let this fall to the wayside. This is a time where our faith is guiding us more than ever. Let us make sure that our children and grandchildren are afforded the same opportunity. In these darkest of hours, let us do what we can to ensure our little Cathedral in the Mission always has a light on for its parishioners and neighbors.



# PHYSICALLY DISTANT; SPIRITUALLY CONNECTED. CELEBRATING OUR 99TH YEAR!

Recreating the  
fellowship of  
our festival via  
this year's  
ad book!

**DEADLINE  
SEPT. 15, 2020**

## PROGRAM BOOK CONTRACT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ FAX: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

### FULL-COLOR:

Full Page (7" x 8½") \$1,000       Half Page (7" x 4½") \$500

### BLACK AND WHITE:

Outside Back Cover (8½" x 11") \$4,500       Half Page (7" x 4½") \$250

Inside Front Cover (7½" x 10½") \$2,250       Quarter Page (3¼" x 4¼") \$150

Inside Back Cover (7½" x 10½") \$2,250       Business Card (3½" x 2") \$100

Full Page (7" x 8½") \$500

Please Use Layout from Last Year

Please Use Supplied Camera-ready Art

Please Write your Ad, Message or Memorial in this area, or send your Artwork to email:  
Adbook@annunciation.org (PDF file preferred & submit only JPEG file for photos)

### PAYMENT METHOD

CREDIT CARD VISA/MC/AMEX #: \_\_\_\_\_ EXP \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_

CASH / CHECKS \_\_\_\_\_ DATE RECEIVED \_\_\_\_\_

All Proceeds Are Tax Deductible to the Extent Permitted By Law. Payment must accompany this contract.

Please make checks payable to: ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL PROGRAM BOOK 2020

245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: 415 864-8000 Fax: 415 431-5860 www.annunciation.org email: Adbook@annunciation.org



### Reopening of our Church

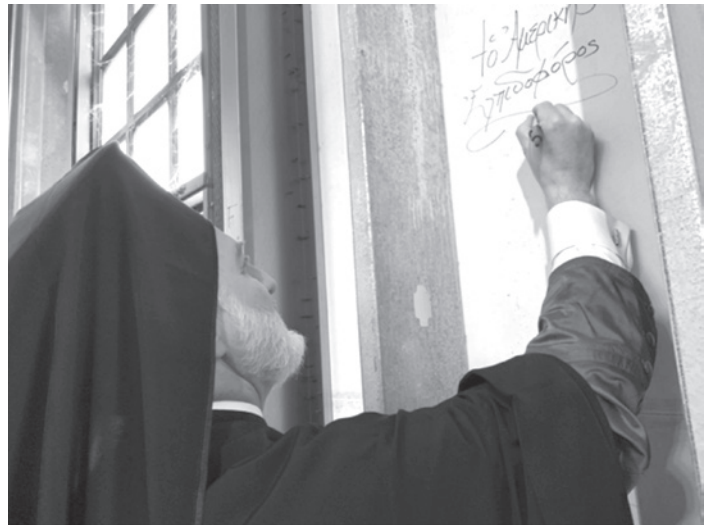
As this issue of the Herald went to press, San Francisco's directive is still in place, namely that "religious gatherings and ceremonies" may take place "outdoors only (up to 12 people), with face coverings and social distancing." This means that Annunciation Cathedral may not open yet, as we had planned, with up to 40 congregants (25% of capacity, based on social distancing requirements). We are now beginning our sixth month of being sheltered in place, with our church essentially closed to in person worship. Until we reopen, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services (as for example, August 6 and August 15), remotely, through streaming. We are, of course, saddened that we may not open up for in-person worship, for the time being. However, the safety of our people is paramount. Let us continue to pray for one another in these challenging times, and let us stay safe.

*Since anything that overshadows something else naturally gives it its own form and character, what came to pass in the Virgin's womb was not just union but the formation, out of both the power of the Most High and her all-holy virgin womb, of the incarnate Word of God...As a result of this, her death, too, was life-giving and led to heavenly, immortal life, and its day of remembrance is a joyful holiday and worldwide festival.*

# Stewardship

A WAY OF LIVING

COVID-19 has turned the world upside down. It came upon us as "a thief in the night," to use a phrase found many times in the Bible (Google the phrase and see how it is used in the Old as well as in the New Testaments). As a result of the pandemic, the whole world is in disarray. Yet, there are signs of stability and there are signs of hope. We experience these daily. First, there is that basic human desire to survive and to overcome. Then, there is the desire to learn and to make things better. We're learning new techniques. Where we were meeting in person, we are now zooming. Where we were giving hugs, we are now connecting or reconnecting with one another virtually. But, most of all, we've dug deep inside and have come to understand that stability and hope come down to faith. And faith is a gift that is given to us by God. Through faith, we are sensing God's grace upon us, our families and our loved ones. Through faith, we are witnessing God's grace upon our beloved church community, which continues to connect us, be it, for the time being, through the streaming of services. Through faith, we are called to be Stewards of God's love and of His mercy. As Stewards, we commend ourselves and one another and our whole life to Jesus Christ. As Stewards, we pledge to support His Church. At the Annunciation, we are grateful for our Stewards, who persist in supporting the church, especially during these challenging times. Our stewardship (the support of the Church by giving of our Time, our Talents, and our Resources) is not only about sustaining or meeting the Church's financial needs. It's much larger than that. It's about establishing His Kingdom. Your giving, especially at this time in our history, therefore, is a sacred thing. We cannot stress this enough. We titled this paragraph "you are the reason we exist." But, consider first and foremost, the Church is the reason you exist. For without the grace of God, mediated through His Church, we are nothing. Think about it: where would we be without the Church? Beginning on the next page is an honor roll of the Cathedral's Stewards for 2020. Thank you. *Efharisto*. And, God bless you.



## *Encyclical from His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros and the Holy Eparchial Synod on Hagia Sophia*

*Holy Wisdom, Arise! – Ἁγία Σοφία, Ὁρθοί!*

*Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,*

*We, the Members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, under the presidency of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America, write to you in the power of the Holy Spirit in these anguished days when the Great Church of Christ, the Patriarchal Cathedral of Holy Wisdom, Ἁγία Σοφία, institutionalized for the past ninety years as a museum and world cultural monument, has been re-converted into a mosque. This egregious and unnecessary action has gravely wounded all Orthodox Christians, indeed all Christians around the world and all people of faith and good will.*

*As your Shepherds and the guardians of the Faith, we mourn with you. But we all know the truth: Ἁγία Σοφία was built as a Christian Church, the greatest Christian Church for a thousand years, until it became the spoils of war and was converted into a mosque. It was the glory of the civilized Christian world for centuries, an architectural marvel of the transfiguration of terrestrial into the manifestation of the celestial. From its central dome, borne aloft on clouds of light, the Great Church comprised a vision of Heaven on earth, and its Liturgy was the most magnificent the world has ever seen. As the embassy of Saint Vladimir, Prince of Kyiv and All Rus uttered after being present for the Divine Service: "We did not know whether we were on earth or in heaven!" Such is the spiritual intensity of every aspect of the Great Church. Her iconography is a crowning*

## *Message of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos*

*Beloved in the Lord,*

*By now, I am sure you have learned of the disheartening decision by the Republic of Turkey to convert the revered and historic Hagia Sophia into a mosque. This is in direct violation of the agreement with UNESCO which designated Hagia Sophia as a World Heritage Site in 1985. These actions bring us tremendous sadness, for Hagia Sophia is an integral part of our Christian heritage.*

*His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America and the members of the Holy Eparchial Synod of our Archdiocese have issued a detailed Encyclical which I encourage you to carefully read and share widely, especially with our ecumenical friends and elected officials in the US Congress. It is important that we all are fully educated about this situation and the ramifications it has for the Orthodox Church as well as for other religious sites throughout the world.*

*In the coming days, we will provide you with additional information on how you can personally become engaged in an effort to raise our voices in protest over the action of the Turkish government. In the meantime, please continue to pray for our Mother Church and for all those suffering under oppression.*

*May the might and grace of God, through the intercessions of the Theotokos, guide and protect our Church and Her people always!*

*With Love in Christ,*

*+Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco*

*see page 8*

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(from page 7)

spiritual aesthetic, achieving the vision, the *Θεωρία* of God among humankind. Through the centuries, all who approached Constantinople by sea or land beheld her towering majesty rising above the massive walls that encircled the Queen of Cities. She was a reminder of the triumph of Resurrection over sin and death, and the surety of God's love and care for His People. She was and indeed still is the very heart of Orthodoxy, for she manifests even now the way to be true co-creators with the Creator of all of a truly Christian culture, civilization, and polity.

Even during the centuries of the Ottoman period, the power of *Αγία Σοφία*, although now used as an Islamic shrine, was unmistakable, and unmistakably Christian. Throughout the Orthodox world the Great Church remained a symbol of the Orthodox Faith of the Ecumenical Councils which bound the far flung Orthodox Peoples together. Even the stunning design of the Church was repeated across the Islamic world in every city and town, as the overwhelming beauty of its presence inspired builders throughout what we now call the Middles East.

But let us make it very clear. For the Orthodox Christian, there is only one Great Church of Christ. There would be many other "Hagia Sophias" built around the world; most notably in Kyiv for the People of Rus, but none dared to imitate the original. She was to stand alone, at the center of the circle of the Orthodox World for all to relate to as do the spokes on a wheel. We are all connected to the Great Church, whether we know and acknowledge this or not.

Therefore, in response to what has happened, we also ask the question posed to the Apostles on the Day of Pentecost: "Τί ποιήσομεν, ἄνδρες ἀδελφοί –Brethren, what then must we do?" (Acts 2:37). First and foremost, we must bend our knees before the Holy Wisdom of God, our Lord Jesus Christ, and beseech Him through the intercessions of His Holy Mother to protect the Great Church of Christ that lives on in the person of our Ecumenical Patriarch and the Holy Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. We must pray that God will arise and scatter every ill intention that may manifest toward our community of faith and indeed all the religious minorities in Turkey.

And we must arise, beloved Christians. We must arise and speak out for the silent stones of *Αγία Σοφία*. We must go to our Christian neighbors and friends here in this free land of America, and ask for their prayers and their help. We must arise and speak to our elected leaders and demand that they act in conscience and righteousness to protest by every means possible this defiance of the modern sensibility which respects not only diversity, but the status quo that allows for the peaceful and harmonious cohabitation of nations, religions, races, and ethnicities.

We must arise and as the People of God, make our voices heard from Washington State to Washington, DC, and not lose heart, lose faith, or lose courage because, though our struggle may be long, it is not without our ultimate hope. Remember that there is no one alive today who remembers *Αγία Σοφία* as either a

Church or a mosque. Everyone knows it as the former of both which was honored as an international monument, on par with the Parthenon and the Pyramids of Egypt. It should be allowed to retain its status quo as a place of encounter for Christians and Muslims, and for all people who desire to behold how faith in God can transform the world.

Let us make our presence and our voices known. Your every breath expended will add to "a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind" (Acts 2:2) that will sweep across the world carrying our message. Not one of hate but one of love, of decency, of understanding, and of mutual respect.

We will never give up our hope, never give up our faith; and we will never give up our love.

*Σοφία, Ὁρθοί!*

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

†ELPIDOPHOROS, Archbishop of America  
and the Holy Eparchial Synod

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## Message of the Pacifica Institute

Please allow me to introduce myself. My name is Fatih Ferdi Ates. I am a director at Pacifica Institute founded by Turkish-Muslim (Hizmet Community) people with mission to promote interfaith dialogue, community engagement and education. I am also a board member at SF Interfaith Council. As you mentioned in your letter, I understand and agree that Hagia Sophia's conversion decision potential to serves to increase of polarization to people of Orthodox and Muslim faith. I am a person who dedicated years to building bridges among peoples who have different faith, culture and background. And, please see my short statement with the agreement of many Muslims below.

"Many people from all walks of life (including me and Hizmet community) was kept warning our friends about Erdogan's dangerous ambitions and political Islamist agenda last 10 years. This is another awful decision to convert Hagia Sophia to a mosque. Obviously, it was a mistake to forcibly convert a historic church to a Mosque in the first place and another mistake "ban" prayer and convert to a museum and now is another but ("timely" mistake as Erdogan was losing his support and recently lost Istanbul municipality election after 25 years). Also, we need to understand all these conversions and bans have historical and political motivations than religion.

Hopefully, all these moves should not discourage us to build interfaith understanding and respect.

Respectfully

Fatih Ates  
Pacifica Institute"





## Hagia Sophia Reverts to a Mosque: A time of Mourning; a time of Reflection

On July 24, 2020, in the midst of a global pandemic and world unrest, Hagia Sophia reverted to a mosque. Voices around the world pleaded with the Turkish authorities not to proceed with plans to do so, to no avail. As announcements were made that this would occur, on July 11, Father Stephen wrote to the San Francisco Interfaith Council, noting that turning Hagia Sophia into a mosque would only serve to polarize people, at a time when the world desperately needs unity. The first people to reply were the Muslim community of the Bay Area, who also decried the decision. Father Stephen's letter appears follow. The reply from the Muslim community appears at the end. Meanwhile, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco also issued a statement, as did His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America. Their letters are offered, for your information and edification. As noted, this is a time of mourning; it is a time of reflection.

*Dear Member Congregations of the SFIC,*

*As a member of the SFIC, the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral adds its voice to those of religious and civil authorities around the world, expressing sorrow and disappointment at the decision made by the Turkish government to convert Constantinople's Hagia Sophia into a mosque.*

*For 1,000 years, Hagia Sophia served as the seat of Orthodox Christianity and, for 500 years, it served as a mosque. The decision early in the 20th century to turn it into a museum afforded people from around the world the opportunity to visit and study it and to consider the central role it played within the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, respectively. Hagia Sophia has been viewed not only as an architectural marvel, but also as a bridge of cultures.*

*The decision to turn it into a mosque serves to polarize rather than unify people, especially during this time of global pandemic, when the world desperately needs unity.*

*Faithfully,  
Rev. Stephen H. Kyriacou  
Dean*



## *Philoptochos Announces 2020 Scholarships Recipients*

It is with great enthusiasm that the Ladies of the Philoptochos announce the recipients of the 2020 Scholarship Awards. The Scholarships have been awarded to Andrew Vellis and Stelios Kyriacou. The committee feels that these two young men have given over and above community service and met all of the requirements that the committee has put forth. We are proud of our two youth who not only aspire to the Greek Orthodox faith but also have a strong commitment to fulfill their educational goals.

Andrew Vellis aspires to a career with the Coast Guard. He will be attending the College of San Mateo. His major will be History. Stelios Kyriacou's interest lies in the medical field. He also will be attending a community college with plans to transfer.

We want to commend the parents of each recipient. We give our heartiest congratulations to Chris and Irene Kyriacou and Costas and Meena Vellis for their hard work and determination in guiding their children to success and sustaining their faith with the Greek Orthodox Church.

We wish them Good Luck and much success.  
*Kali Epitixia*

*It was right, therefore, that the body which brought forth the Son should be glorified with Him in divine glory, and that the Ark of Christ's holiness should arise with Him Who rose on third day, as the Prophet sang" (cf. Ps. 132:8).*



## Building Update Things Are Beginning to Move

The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold but, now, things are beginning to move again. The granite which along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues are being addressed as the present Herald went to press. The gate people have resumed installation of the Valencia Street Gates. We're now waiting for the lobby doors. They should be installed by mid-August. Then, the stone people will come out and complete laying the pavers, right up to the street. Finally, the elevator will become operational and the state inspector will certify its use. This can happen as soon as the latter part of August. As soon as we finish this and obtain our certificate of occupancy for the garage, we can open the garage to self-park. This is necessary if we are to open up the church, as the valet can guide us where to park, but can no longer park our cars for us. They will, instead, direct where we should park and oversee the operation of the lot. This is also necessary because it will provide income for the Cathedral, derived primarily from neighbors and others who wish to park in our lot, in accordance with our conditional use permit. Finally, we will be able to complete the engraving of the pavers in accordance with our Adopt a Paver Program. Some 100 pavers have been adopted to date.



*Just as it was only through her that the son came to us, was seen on earth, and lived among men, after previously being invisible to all, so from now on for endless eternity all progress towards the manifestation of divine light, every revelation of divine mysteries, and all forms of spiritual gifts are beyond everyone's grasp without her.*

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## Building update from Tasso Mavroudis

When we are all allowed to return to the Cathedral you may not immediately notice many changes, but rest assured a lot of work has been done.

During the last rainy season, you may have noticed that the courtyard was pooling water and not draining properly, leading to water flowing into the Cathedral area. We discovered that the cause was the grout around the pavers not being mixed properly and blocking the water from flowing through into the drainage system underneath the courtyard. After extensive testing and consultation with the manufacturer and our architects, the paving sub-contractor acknowledged the issue and agreed to correct it at no cost to the Cathedral. This labor-intensive task of manually removing the grout around the pavers was completed in early July, and the process of replacing the grout with the correct mixture is ongoing and will hopefully be completed soon. As soon as the grout in the courtyard is completed, we will be scheduling the inscription of the additional pavers that have been adopted. During the inscription of the newly adopted pavers, the contractor will also be correcting the color of the existing pavers. Anyone that is interested in adopting a paver should visit [www.annunciation.org/adopt-a-paver](http://www.annunciation.org/adopt-a-paver) for further information.

When you arrive at the Cathedral, you will also notice the gates along Valencia are nearing completion. As soon as the gates are completed, the stone contractor will be completing the paver walkway towards Valencia Street. You will also notice that the granite along Valencia Street and stone caps has been completed.

We encountered an issue during the installation of the lobby doors, where it was noticed that the incorrect glazing was used. The new doors are expected to be finished around August 5, and their installation will be scheduled after the doors are inspected to confirm they are correct.

We are nearing completion of the elevator in order to get it ready for state inspection. Our contractor has advised us that the typical turnaround time for state inspection is about 4 weeks from completion.

All of this would not be possible without the help and continued support of our parishioners. I know we all can not wait to return to worship in person, and I look forward to the day that we will gather and worship in our new Cathedral.





## Technology Team Highlight

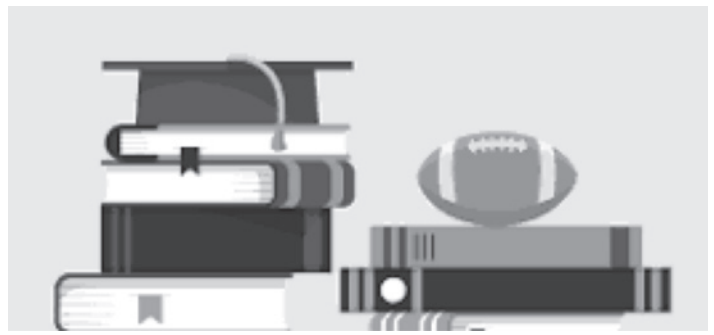
Father Stephen and Christo were reflecting the other day how the progression of technology during our times ordinarily gets a bad rap as we become an increasingly tech-oriented society. However, if it weren't for these strides in technology, we would not be able to stream the services of the Church to your homes like we have for the past five months, keeping us all connected.

God has blessed us here at the Cathedral with three tech savvy Parish Council members we refer to as our Technology Team and/or Stream Team! From the very first day of the "Shut Down" in San Francisco, John Lampros, Peter Cazanis, and Tasso Mavroudis stepped up to the plate in a major way by taking on the challenge of keeping our community connected via the streaming of our services. The Tech Team has worked continuously over the past five months to set up the necessary equipment, update the Cathedral YouTube page, ensure the quality of our stream, and to solve any problems that arise. Whether it be audio challenges or camera issues, the Tech Team leaps into action to not only solve the problems, but to improve the virtual worship experience for everyone tuning in from home. They watch with a careful eye during the services and are quick to communicate with me should any issue happen so that we can fix it on the fly.

These past five months have been difficult. But as Orthodox Christians we are people that adapt to challenges and overcome difficulties for the Glory of God. This spirit is perfectly embodied by our Technology Team. We can't thank them enough.

Bravo tous!

*Of all those on earth she is the glory, of those in heaven the delight, the adornment of all creation. Source, fount and root of ineffable good things, she is the crown and perfection of all the saints.*



## Cathedral Offers Vellis Scholarship, in Addition to Other Scholarships Offered

This year's scholarship application, (opposite page) includes the offering of a Vellis Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00. As noted, the scholarship (or, if the demand is there, two scholarships), is open to high school graduates, who will be attending college in the fall, who have also attended Annunciation's Sunday School. Please note the additional requirements for applicants of the Vellis Scholarship(s), as well as the Bagatgelos and Vavuris scholarships.

### 2020 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

For 2020, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation will provide four (6) scholarships, as follows:

1. The John N. Pappas Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
2. The Christos Tsikitas Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
3. Andreas and Nikki Coundouris Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
4. The S. Lee Vavuris Legal Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
5. The Dr. Anthony P. Bagatelos Scholarship, in the amount of 75% of interest earned.
6. The Andrew and Efrosine Memorial Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00

Please complete and forward the appropriate application to the attention of: The Scholarship Committee, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, California 94103 **by September 1, 2020.** (Note: due to COVID-19, the date has been changed from May 24 to September 1.)

**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.**

*Continued on page 14*

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# 2020 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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\* **A Letter of Recommendation** from ONE (1) Member in Good Standing with the Cathedral of the Annunciation

\* **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 2020 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. The restrictions which govern the Bagatelos Scholarship do not apply to the Vavuris Scholarship.

\* **Relative to the Efrosine and Andrew Vellis Scholarship:**

Selection of the recipient will be based on the following criteria: 1. Applicant must have been a registered student of Annunciation Cathedral Sunday School with regular participation and attendance; or Sunday School students who have gone on to serve as altar boys or Sunday School teachers with regular participation and attendance. 2. Applicant (if over 18 years old) or the parents (if under 18 years old) must be members in good standing of Annunciation Cathedral. 3. Candidates must provide evidence of their scholastic standing, including official transcript records. 4. All candidates must be students in good standing at an accredited institution of higher education or accredited high school. The parish priest, a member of the Vellis Family, and a representative from the church will review the application and decide on awarding the scholarship. All required documentation, as listed on the checklist below, must be included with your submission. Financial need will be considered, but will not be the uppermost criterion. A.

Official transcripts from High School and College (if applicable) b. Letter of acceptance (for those entering college) or proof that you are a full time student (for those already attending college). C. Submit Two Letters of Recommendation – one of these must be from an Annunciation Sunday School Teacher or a member in good standing of the Annunciation Cathedral D. A brief resume (2-page maximum) about yourself including: Honors/Awards, Special skills, Extracurricular information, D. Education, and E. Goals Incomplete applications and late submissions will not be accepted by the committee, nor will they be considered.

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## *"Inspiration from our Youth"*

The other week Father Stephen and I enjoyed a Zoom call with our kids from the Revmata Dance Group. We had a little lesson on the importance of our Baptismal names and we learned about the name of each one of us in the call! While the purpose of the Zoom call originally may have been to "teach" the kids a little something, in the end it was I who learned a lot.

During the Zoom we asked the kids how they had been doing amidst all the Covid-19 restrictions and "shelter in place" mandates. We spoke about missing friends and missing out on vacations, which I think we would agree we are all missing these days. (I know I am!)

But the conversation about what the kids were missing suddenly took a turn. One of our kids said simply and sincerely, *"I miss church."*

At these three words the other kids chimed in, *"I miss being in the Altar!"*

*"I miss seeing my friends at Sunday School!"*

*"I miss going to dance practice!"*

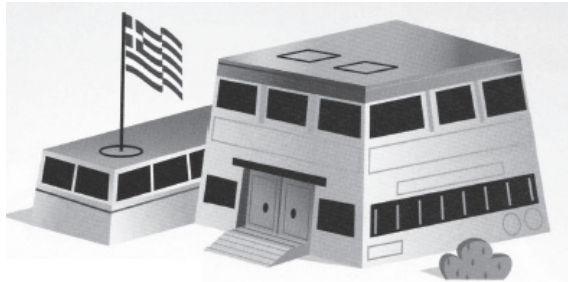
These words from our kids were initially sad for me to hear. I began to distress at the bizarre situation 2020 has forced us all into, resulting in our physical separation from our churches.

But the enthusiasm with which our kids expressed how much they miss their church and all the activities they participate in gave me great inspiration.

I saw their smiling faces and heard the vigor in their voices and it became clear to me that their connection to their church is still very much alive. I began to feel optimistic that when our church finally does reopen, it will be once again filled with the joy and sound of our kids, eager to return.

So from this little Zoom call, I learned to look forward to the end of this "Shut Down". To not get stuck in the limbo we find ourselves in. Our kids truly do miss their church. And this gives me great hope and excitement for the day our doors are open again.

-Christo



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

## Greek School News

Greek language school is on summer break at the moment but we will resume classes on Saturday, September 12. The 2020 - 2021 school year will run from September 12, 2020 to June 5, 2021.

We ended the 2019 - 2020 school year with online classes offered by our teachers. The Greek school uses a combination of different materials for our classes, depending on the level. In August and in the upcoming school year, we will be offering a new online platform for our students at all levels except for the Preparatory exam levels. The online platform, Ellinopoula, <http://www.ellinopoula.com>, received a gold award from the Education Leaders Awards as the best Greek online platform for kids. We are so excited that the students will have an additional resource for learning Greek!

Greek language classes for children and adults are offered through the Annunciation Cathedral. If you are interested in learning Greek, please reach out to us!



## Announcing: Virtual Sunday School!

Spring semester so abruptly ended for all of us - and we didn't get to really have all of our normal Spring activities that herald the end of the school year. I missed the graduation ceremony and blessing for all our graduates as much as you did.

This year for Sunday School is also looking to be like no other, as we look to conduct our enrollment process and instructional program online. We are also taking into consideration what our classes will look like when it is safe to resume "in person" at church. Currently we are finalizing the details of online Sunday School enrollment, likely to be advertised through the church's email list and perhaps the church website as well.

The Sunday School will be setting up the following structure for online classes according to grade level groups:

Prior to Sunday, Sunday School Teachers will email a copy or link to the readings which are to take place during Liturgy. They will also email a link to join a video meeting via Google Meet.

Students will tune-in to Liturgy via the YouTube Channel until after Christo's weekly sermon.

At 11AM, students will join their Google Meet, and engage in discussions with their classmates and teacher regarding Christo's sermons, what lessons they learned, and how they can apply those to their life. Each meeting will be 30 minutes.

Some teachers may choose to distribute additional materials via Google Web Sites or through emails.

Sunday School will resume on September 13th, the Sunday after Labor Day weekend, and we are looking for additional teachers and substitute teachers this year. If you are interested please email Christo at [Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org](mailto:Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org)

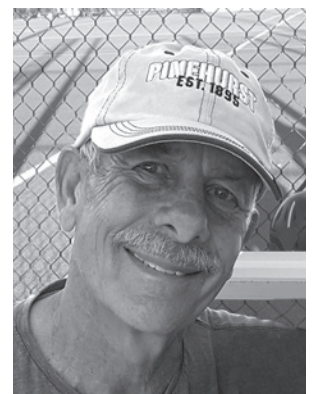
## Sacraments and Services



### CONDOLENCES

The Cathedral extends condolences to the family of Milton Panagotacos,, who fell asleep in the Lord on July 15, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Sharon, his sons, John, Nicholas and Constantine and his brothers Dr. Peter Panagotacos and Dr. James Panagotacos.

*Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal memory!*



UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
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ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL  
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*The Great Church. Hagia Sophia.*

Ecclesiastical  
Center of  
Orthodox  
Christianity,  
537 AD – 1453 AD

Mosque, 1453  
AD – 1931 AD

Museum, 1935  
AD – 2020

Reverted to a  
mosque, 2020

Its beauty: timeless.  
Its symbolic value to  
world architecture:  
one of the world's  
greatest wonders.  
Its significance to all  
of us, in the words  
of the Rus, who vis-  
ited in 1988 AD and  
were converted to  
Orthodox Christian-  
ity afterwards: *We  
knew not whether we  
were in Heaven or on  
Earth... We only know  
that God dwells there  
among the people...*