



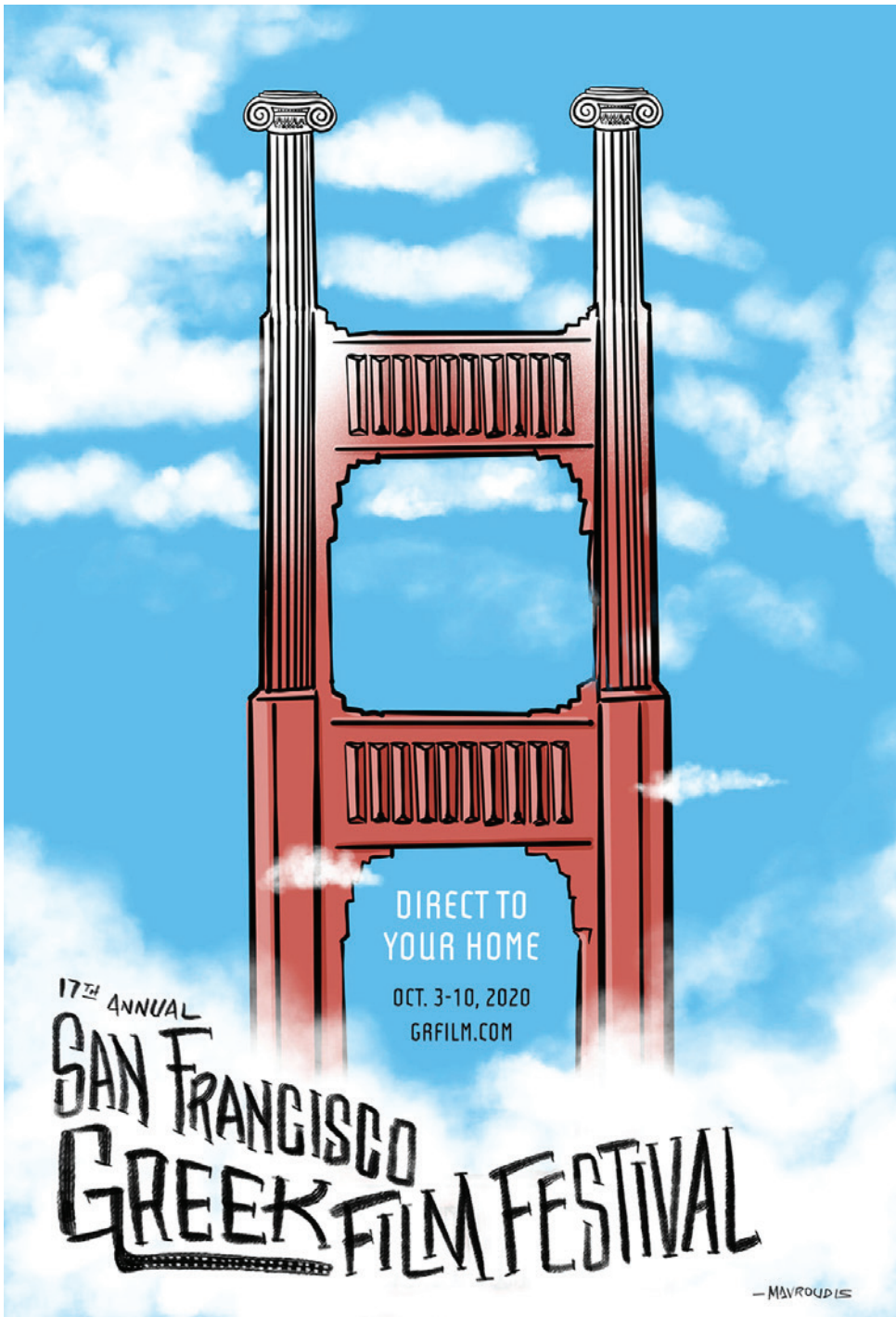
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

OCTOBER 2020

17th Annual San Francisco Greek Film Festival



We are thrilled to announce that the 17th annual San Francisco Greek Film Festival will take place online October 3-10, 2020 with all screenings available free of charge. In this time of need, we want to give back to our community that has supported us these last 17 years, with this year's free, virtual Festival. Although going to movie theatres is still not possible, we are excited to bring Greek and Cypriot films from around the world into everyone's homes.

We are also delighted to announce that we will have an old-fashioned Drive-In event on the evening of Sunday, October 4, at Par 3 at Poplar Creek in San Mateo. We will be showcasing the 1964 classic film, TOPKAPI, starring acclaimed Greek performer Melina Mercouri. The Greek Culture Ministry has declared 2020 the "Year of Melina Mercouri" in commemoration of what would have been the 100th birthday of the internationally-acclaimed actress, politician and culture champion. The SFGFF presents this event in honor of Melina Mercouri. There are 40 spots available for the Drive-In and it is encouraged you purchase your tickets beforehand. Tickets will only be sold at the door if they have not already sold out.

For Drive-In tickets:
<https://sfgff-topkapi.eventbrite.com>

See page 2

from front page

For virtual Festival access:
www.eventive.org/sfgff2020

All information available on Festival website: www.grfilm.com

This year's Greek Film Festival poster is designed by John Mavroudis, a Greek-American award-winning artist who lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. Mavroudis' work has been seen on many magazine covers, including TIME, The New Yorker and The Nation. His work was twice named by the American Society of Magazine Editors as "Cover of the Year," in 2006 for his New Yorker illustration on the 5th anniversary of the September 11 attacks, and in 2018 for the TIME cover of Christine Blasey Ford during the Senate hearings on the Supreme Court nomination of Brett Kavanaugh. He created the current TIME cover, which marks nearly 200,000 U.S. deaths due to COVID-19. Mavroudis has designed many posters for Fillmore Auditorium concerts, rock band Moonalice, and past years of the San Francisco Greek Festival. His website is <https://www.zenpop.com>.

Only 40 spots are available for the drive-in. You are strongly encouraged to purchase your tickets ahead of time. Bigger, taller cars (such as SUVs, trucks, etc.) will be placed in the back, shorter cars in the front. Tickets will only be sold at the door if they have not already sold out. All details and rules are available on the Eventbrite.

It's for tonight, darling, in Istanbul...

we've got a leather vest, a surgeon's lamp, a suction cup, and a boy-scout knot,

also a mastermind, an electronics genius—and a schmo.

Come on—you're cut in on the theft of the century!

FILMWAYS presents
MELINA MERCOURI PETER USTINOV MAXIMILIAN SCHELL

Topkapi
(where the jewels are!)

BE THERE ON TIME - WE'D HATE TO START WITHOUT YOU!

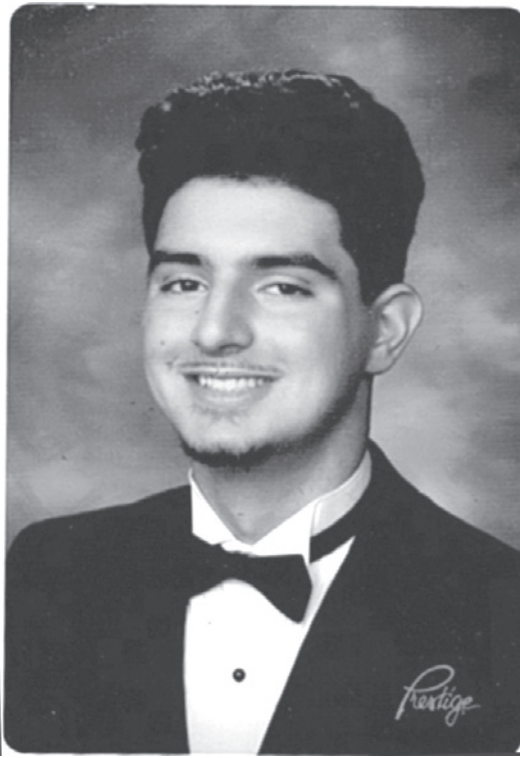
CO-STARRING ROBERT MORLEY AKIM TAMIROFF SCREENPLAY BY MONJA DANISCHEWSKY BASED UPON "THE LIGHT OF DAY" BY ERIC AMBLER
MUSIC BY MANOS HADJIDAKIS PRODUCED AND DIRECTED BY JULES DASSIN **COLOR** RELEASED THROUGH UNITED ARTISTS

NOW OPEN!

Par 3
at Poplar Creek

DRIVE-IN
DINE-OUT

NOW PLAYING WEEKLY!



Cathedral Awards the Christos Tsikitas Scholarship to Stephen Panagiotopoulos

In addition to the scholarships awarded by the Ladies Philoptochos reported in the August Herald, and the awarding of the Andreas and Nikki Coundouris Scholarship reported in the September Herald, the Cathedral is happy to announce the awarding of the Christos Tsikitas Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Stephen Panagiotopoulos!

Stephen has just begun his first college school year and is attending San Francisco State University. He is taking Biology courses with the objective of pursuing dentistry. Below are a few words from Stephen excerpted from his scholarship application:

"As much as I enjoy working on my cars, I always manage to find time to show my praise to God. Since I was young I attended Sunday School to learn more about my Greek Orthodox religion and faith; and become in touch with God. While I was in Sunday School, I was also a member of the Altar Boys who help the priest and assist him during Liturgy on Sundays. I continued to dedicate my time by volunteering at the monthly soup kitchen to feed those in need. As I spoke to those who came in those nights, they thanked me with kind words and told me stories of how difficult their lives truly are, which helped build my understanding of the real world and how doing something small could be an extremely generous act for another."

Bravo, Stephen! The Cathedral sends its support and best wishes to you as you begin this new chapter in your life!



45th Clergy Laity Congress – First-Ever Virtual - Concludes

"...The Greatest of These is Love"

New York, NY – The 45th Clergy Laity Congress, a first-ever virtual event, concluded after a successful Plenary Session. All necessary resolutions for the proper operation and administration of the Archdiocese were effected in an atmosphere of professionalism and Christian brotherhood.

In his Opening Remarks to the Plenary Session, Archbishop Elpidophoros offered the following remarks:

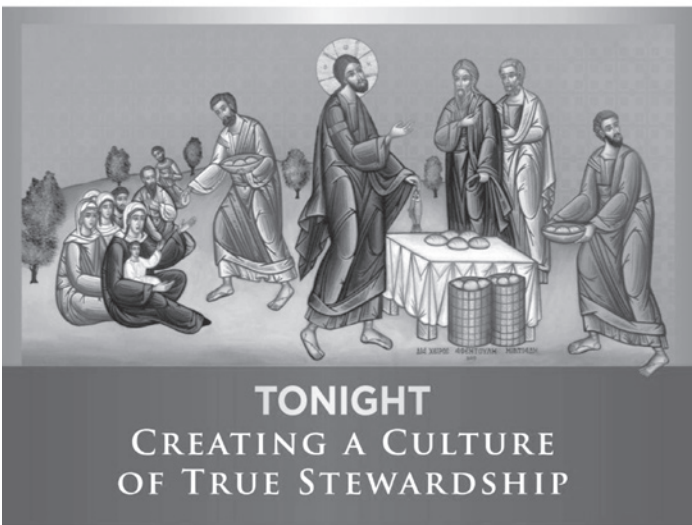
"At this 45th Clergy Laity Congress, let us commit to our God and to one another that we will embrace our high calling in Christ. Let us 'lift up our eyes unto the hills from whence our help comes.' [1] Let us pursue a course for our Church in America that gives back without ever giving up. That gives sacrificially. That gives because we have been so very blessed. I thank you all for your commitment to sacrifice and to service. May the Lord bless each of you, your families and Parishes, as we journey together in fellowship to the ever-growing Kingdom of God."

The 45th Greek Orthodox Archdiocese Clergy Laity Congress concluded with an Archiepiscopal Exhortation and final Blessing.

Father Stephen Kyriacou, along with Parish Council President Chris Kyriacou, Archon Orphanotrophos Paul Sogotis, and Christo Pappademos attended this year's virtual Clergy Laity as delegates of our Annunciation Cathedral. While they all participated in the proceedings of the Plenary Sessions, Paul Sogotis and Chris Kyriacou also participated in meetings of the Finance Committee, while Father Stephen joined the Committee on Ecumenical and Interchurch Relations and Christo joined the Committee on Youth Ministries.

You cannot be too gentle, too kind. Shun even to appear harsh in your treatment of each other. Joy, radiant joy, streams from the face of one who gives and kindles joy in the heart of one who receives.

– Seraphim of Sarov.



Would you Like to Help Sponsor the Herald?

A parishioner wrote us recently with a thought – that of sponsoring the Herald. Much like the AdBook that we publish in connection with the annual Food Festival, individuals would make a donation to help defray the cost of producing and mailing the monthly Herald. In turn, the donor would be acknowledged by a business card size or other size ad, commensurate with the donation. To illustrate: it costs approximately \$1,000 a month to produce the Herald. An 8 ½ x 11” page can accommodate 8 cards. Divide \$1,000 by 8 and you have \$125 per sponsor. Give it some thought. If you would like to help underwrite the cost of printing the Herald, become a sponsor. For further information, please contact Christo at Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org



Every other Tuesday evening, Father Stephen and Christo have been attending a virtual Stewardship Series being offered by the Metropolis and hosted by Stewardship guru Bill Marianes. These sessions offer great insight and provide vision for a healthy stewardship model in a parish. The most recent meeting focused on four areas to ensure healthy stewardship: Leadership Engagement, Tithing and Percentage Giving, Increasing Parishioner Engagement, and Effective Personal Touch. As we continue to participate, we look forward to implementing some of these practices here at the Cathedral. The goal of this process as stated by the Metropolis is to “produce a more effective Stewardship ministry, to be able to elevate our parishes to a deeper level of understanding of true Christian stewardship that leads to a transformative way of living our calling as Greek Orthodox Christians.” As we express thanks to our Cathedral parishioners and friends for your response in 2020, a most challenging year, to be sure, we ask you to begin thinking about your commitment for 2021, the 100th year of our community, a year of healing, rebirth and hope.



Physically Distant; Spiritually Connected: 2020 Adbook

Every year, in connection with its Food Festival, the Cathedral publishes a program book or what has come to be known as the AdBook. As we could not hold a festival, we thought we should still put together the book, both because it brings much-needed revenue to the Cathedral for its operations, especially this year, when we have been negatively

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

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

**DEADLINE
SEPT. 30, 2020**

PROGRAM BOOK CONTRACT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

FULL-COLOR:

Full Page (7" x 8 1/2") \$1,000

Half Page (7" x 4 1/2") \$500

BLACK AND WHITE:

Outside Back Cover (8 1/2" x 11") \$4,500

Half Page (7" x 4 1/2") \$250

Inside Front Cover (7 1/2" x 10 1/2") \$2,250

Quarter Page (3 1/4" x 4 1/4") \$150

Inside Back Cover (7 1/2" x 10 1/2") \$2,250

Business Card (3 1/2" x 2") \$100

Full Page (7" x 8 1/2") \$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

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impacted by COVID-19, and also as a way of keeping us connected. Presbyteria Aliko and Irene Kyriacou took the lead on the book, thanks to the theme provided by Maria Nicolacakis—Physically Distant; Spiritually Connected, the book is becoming a reality. First, we'd like to share with you that we set a goal of \$100,000 and, thanks to the tireless efforts of our committee and your generosity, we're 95% of the way there. We're sure that you will want this goal to be reached, perhaps even surpass it. So, as the book is being compiled, we will accept a few more ads the first few days of October. Use this opportunity to be creative. Tell us how you've been faring during this pandemic. Include photos. People will keep this book and share it with others. The book will be useful, as well, because it will contain a directory of the parishioners and friends of the Cathedral. Finally, you will want to be a part of it because it is being printed in this, our 99th year as a community, which we are also celebrating. Your support encourages us and gives us hope. Once the book is printed, a copy will go out to each of the households on the Cathedral's mailing list, as well as to those who've contributed to it—about 1,000 copies. In all, we anticipate the book will be viewed by five times that many people. In addition, it will be posted to our web site. So, for your convenience, we are including the contract, below. Additional info and web links to an online form and online payment (PayPal) can be found here: <https://www.annunciation.org/2020-festival-book>



Returning to In-Person Worship

Seven months into the pandemic, San Francisco's directive is still in place. As this issue of the Herald went to press, we learned the City has a goal of permitting in-person attendance for up to 25 people, within the next few weeks. However, in order to open, even in this limited way, we need to obtain our certificate of occupancy for the garage so that you may self-park. We expect this will happen sometime in October, once the last pavers are installed at the Valencia Street entry to the courtyard and the garage elevator receives its final inspection. We hope to be able to open on or about November 1. Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services, remotely, through streaming. We are, of course, saddened that we have not been able to open up for in-person worship, all this time. 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.

When we resume in-person worship, we will need to have between seven (7) and ten (10) volunteers on hand each time the church is open to monitor the parking garage, greet and check in, ask health questions, usher, and provide general oversight. Are you able and are you willing to assist? If the answer is yes, please let us know, so that we can compile a master list of our volunteer pool and begin training. Please click on www.annunciation.org/reopening-volunteer. We look forward to hearing from you.

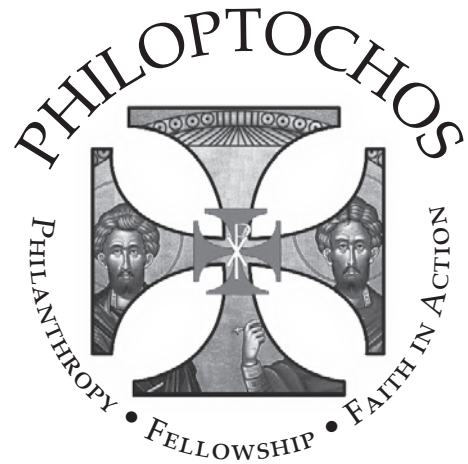
It is only necessary to seek one thing: to be with Jesus. The person who remains with Jesus is rich, even if he is poor with regard to material things. Whoever desires the earthly more than the heavenly loses both the earthly and the heavenly. But whoever seeks the heavenly is lord of the whole world.

St. Ignatius Brianchaninov



Building Update: The Doors The Doors!

This past month, Joseph Badra and workers from Blue Fox Construction were here regularly to complete installation of double doors in the basement lobby of the garage, a single door at the top of the staircase to the upstairs elevator lobby, and double doors leading from the upper elevator lobby to the outer courtyard. The installers worked meticulously and diligently. What used to be open passageways are now fully finished high quality mahogany doors. Freshly stained and finished with sealants, the doors add a welcoming appearance to this area of the Cathedral building and are an exciting sign of other projects to come.



Philoptochos News

Dear Parishioners,

Taste and Art of Greece, an online boutique providing 'made in Greece' products have generously offered to donate **15% of all their sales** during the period of **Monday, October 26th through Monday, November 2nd** to our **Philoptochos**. This is a wonderful way to support a small business that promotes Hellenism so buy something from Greece to enjoy yourself or give as a gift, but more importantly, helps our beloved Philoptochos and Church during this time of crisis.

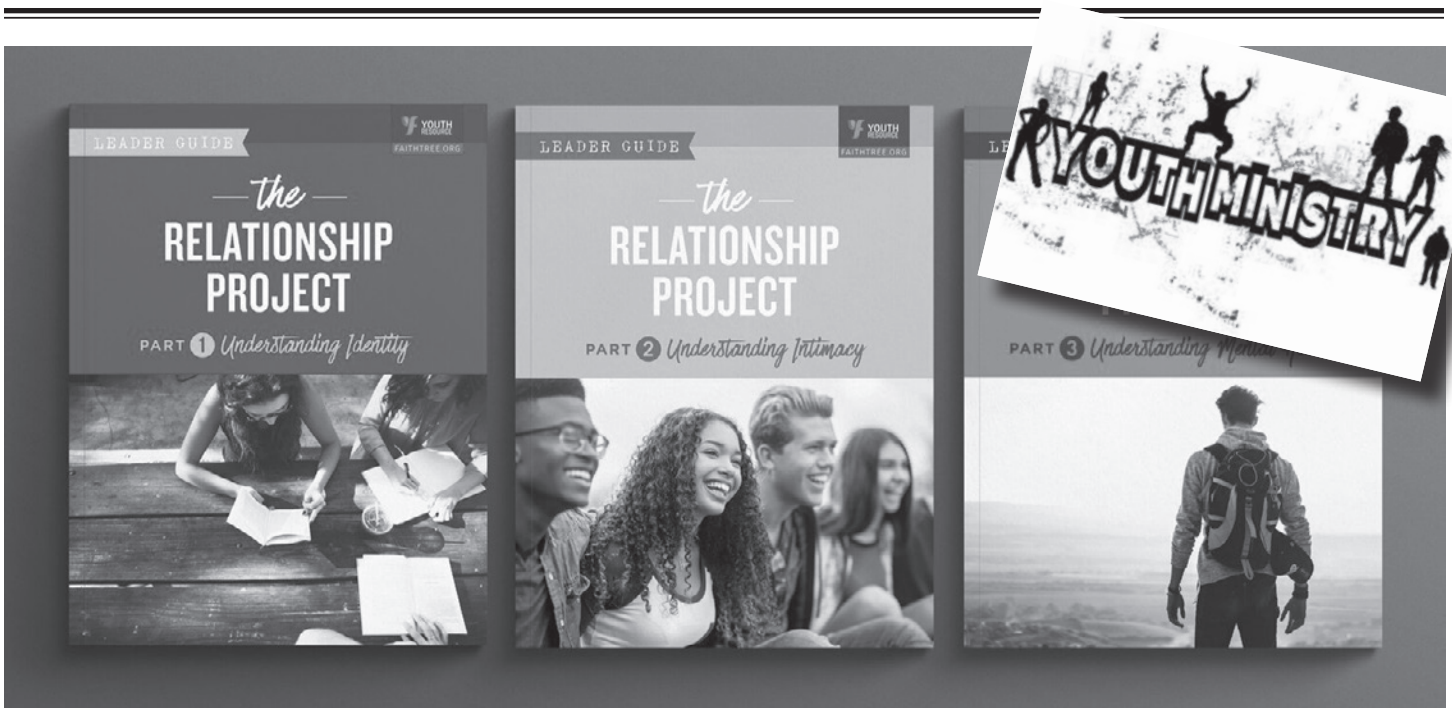
We encourage you to visit their website, and share it with friends, as sales from anywhere in the world will apply to our donation during our allotted period! Jewelry, handbags, and most accessories will ship free with coupon code **FREESHIP** at checkout. Also, for a minimum purchase of \$65, orders ship free automatically for all products anywhere in the USA. If you are shopping for yourself or any celebrations, now is a great time to stock up while helping our not only Philoptochos but the artists and designers during this difficult time.

Follow their Facebook and Instagram pages **Taste and Art of Greece**, as they will be posting products regularly that are available for purchase on their website to give you an up-close look at their products, and **all you have to do is shop their website at www.tasteandartofgreece.com between October 26th through November 2nd.**

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to the owner, Elaine Setas at 603.289.4975 or tasteandartofgreece@gmail.com

Spread the word to your friends and family - sales from anywhere in the world will qualify for the 15% donation! Stay well and God bless,

*Janis Petrou,
Philoptochos President*



***The Relationship Project* is an all-inclusive program that engages you and your teens in today’s most needed conversations.**

On behalf of the Metropolis of San Francisco, each parish has been gifted access to a great new program geared toward our teenagers. Our Cathedral will exercise the program through the facilitation of our wonderful parent volunteers Kelly Rakos, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou.

By exploring questions like *What is our true identity?*, *What does it mean to be a child of God?*, *What is the true meaning of intimacy?*, and *What does the Church say about good mental health?* this compelling group study allows you to lead your youth in discovering who they are in Christ. This program provides extensive support as you create a safe space for your teens to wrestle with the possible differences between what the world may suggest, versus what the Church teaches as truth.

Presented in an easy-to-use, visually stunning and highly engaging format: Teens will have fun connecting with you and each other as they learn the timeless wisdom and freedom that is found in the Orthodox Faith.

Composed of three connected parts, with multiple sequential teaching segments, *The Relationship Project* brings the teens in your youth program into an exciting exploration of how they were designed by God, and what that design means within their relationships.

By exploring all three Parts of *The Relationship Project*, your teens will discover who they are as children of God, how they were designed to be in relationship with others, with themselves, and ultimately with God.

Bring to the storehouse a full-tenth of what you earn [tithe] so there will be food in my house [C the temple; Deut. 14:22–28]. Test me in this,” says the Lord ·All-Powerful [Almighty; of Heaven’s Armies; T of hosts]. “I will open the windows of heaven for you and pour out all the blessings you need.

Malachi 3:10

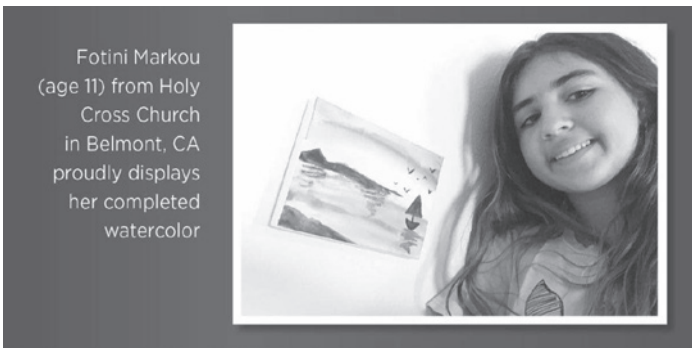


Madelyn Smith (age 12) and JW Smith (age 9) from Saint John the Baptist Church in Beaverton, OR show off the supplies to make their friendship bracelets and prayer ropes.

Metropolis Virtual Summer Camp Brings Immersive Camp Experience Home

Summer Camp has become a rite of passage for hundreds of youth each year who attend the Metropolis Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. And even though COVID-19 prevented campers and counselors from experiencing camp in person, the spirit of Summer Camp resonated through a virtual experience for 140 youth that continued the 38-year legacy of this exceptional ministry.

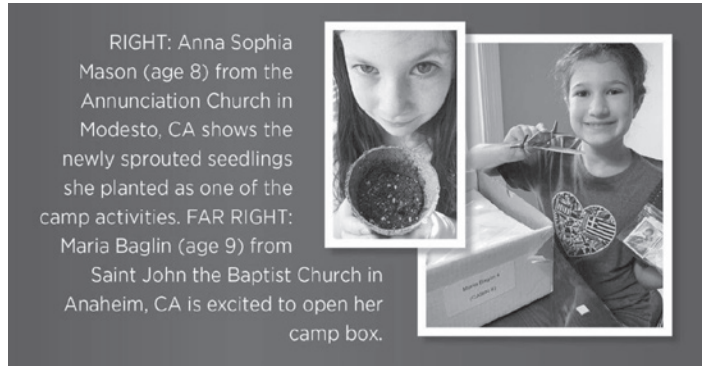
“A *Summer Like No Other*” emerged as a unique opportunity for youth to participate in a complimentary virtual three-week program that brought the Metropolis Summer Camp and Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center into their hearts and homes.



Fotini Markou (age 11) from Holy Cross Church in Belmont, CA proudly displays her completed watercolor

participants in this year’s Virtual Camp had an exceptional experience and it created a whole new venue to explore creativity in ministry,” remarked His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. “While nothing can replace the interpersonal connections made at camp, our dedicated staff and volunteers rose to the challenge of the circumstances brought forth by the pandemic and made this a meaningful and memorable program for all the participants.”

To prepare for an immersive experience, each camper and staff member received a Camp Box full of supplies to enhance participation in various activities and some additional surprise gifts that embodied the spirit of camp and the fellowship that would be cultivated during this program.



RIGHT: Anna Sophia Mason (age 8) from the Annunciation Church in Modesto, CA shows the newly sprouted seedlings she planted as one of the camp activities. FAR RIGHT: Maria Baglin (age 9) from Saint John the Baptist Church in Anaheim, CA is excited to open her camp box.

Virtual Summer Camp was held on Mondays, Wednesday, and Fridays for three weeks, with two-hour sessions every morning and every evening. Each day began with prayer, with campers participating in the Orthros Service or the Akathist of Thanksgiving. Various activities followed including Orthodox Life sessions, Arts and Crafts, Faith and Culture, Gardening, Zoomba, and Cooking. Every evening session began with Vespers or Paraklesis to the Theotokos. Campers then shared in cabin devotional discussions, tested their knowledge at Trivia Night, showcased their star qualities at the Talent Show, and demonstrated their fancy footwork at the Virtual Dance. Campers also experienced virtual field trips to Hellenic College Holy/Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology in Brookline, MA, and to the Minkler Cash Store in Minkler, CA.



Philotimo Scholarship Competition Attention: Greek-American Students

Once again, The Washington OXI Day Foundation will offer college scholarships to five Greek-American students (Grades 6-12) who best describe the concept of *“philotimo.”* This year, on the occasion of the Foundation’s 10th anniversary, the total of the scholarship grants will be doubled from \$5,000 to \$10,000

- First Place: \$4,000 scholarship and an invitation to participate in the Foundation’s 10th Annual OXI Courage and Service Awards on October 28.
- Second Place: \$2,000 scholarship (awarded to two students)
- Third Place: \$1,000 scholarship (awarded to two students)

(see page 10 to apply)

Matia is back! Girls gather in Burlingame.

It was so great to see the girls in a Burlingame park on September 20. (Some of the early arrivals are shown, above.) The girls seem to be taking all of this well. We can only hope we all get a little bit of normalcy back in our lives sooner rather than later. Awards were handed out, as our team won the championship back when life was more normal. (See photo below.) A GOYA gathering took place on September 26, at the Sogotis home, in Burlingame.



PHILOTIMO SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION *(from page 9)*

To apply, students should:
Watch the Foundation's video, 'The Greek Secret,' on the subject of philotimo at www.oxidayfoundation.org/philotimo/the-greek-secret/

In 500 words, or less, answer one of the following questions: What does philotimo mean to you?

What are some extraordinary examples of philotimo that you have seen? What are some of the things you can do in your daily life to exhibit philotimo? How can philotimo improve your life? Submit your answer to the Foundation via email at info@oxidayfoundation.org by Friday, October 10.

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL PHILOPTOCHOS' VIRAL VENDER WEEK

Taste and Art of Greece<https://www.tasteandartofgreece.com/>

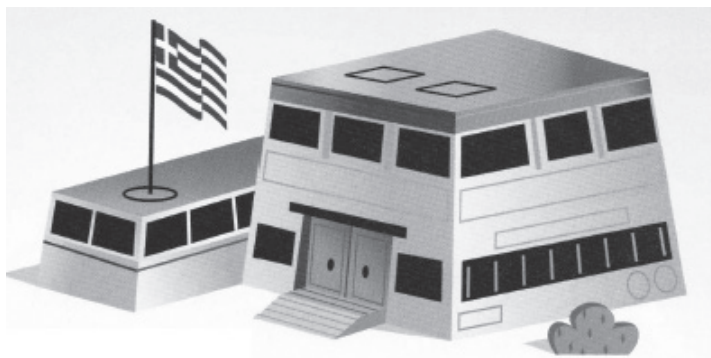
Monday, October 26, 2020 thru Monday, November 2, 2020

Feel like you are shopping on the streets of Monastiraki or the Plaka....

Browse the Taste and Art of Greece website and you'll find authentic and unique products from artists and designers from every corner of Greece. Taste and Art of Greece has partnered with The Annunciation Cathedral's Ladies Philoptochos and will donate a portion of the proceeds from all purchases made during this week by our parishioners as well as by customers from anywhere in the USA and the World.

Below is just a sampling of what you will see on the Taste and Art of Greece Website: Use code FREESHIP at checkout for free shipping on jewelry, handbags and most accessories.





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

Greek School News

Our teachers are all native Greek speakers and have extensive years of experience teaching. We keep our classes small, maximum of 8 students per class in order to spend as much time per child as possible. Classes meet on Saturdays virtually to start, please see our latest news page for details. Our tuition is only \$650 per school year which runs from September to June, and that includes the cost of books and supplies that will be used in the classroom.

Our Greek school offers multiple levels of classes, and even classes for adults.

Pre-K - Ages 4-5 (without any previous exposure to Greek), play based

Kindergarten - Ages 5-7, reading and writing the alphabet, introduction of words

Level 1- Ages 7-10, verbal and written comprehension, vocabulary, grammar

Level 2 - Ages 8-12, verbal and written comprehension, vocabulary, grammar

Level 3 - Ages 9 and up, verbal and written comprehension, vocabulary, grammar

Level 4 - Ages 10 and up, verbal and written comprehension, vocabulary, grammar

Preparatory - Classes that prepare students to take the exams A1, A2, B1 and B2 (Certificates of Attainment in Greek established in 1998 by the Greek Ministry of Education to confirm one's proficiency in Greek as a second language)

GREEK SCHOOL CALENDAR 2020 - 2021

These are the dates that Greek school will be closed:

November 28th - closed for Thanksgiving

December 26th - closed for Christmas vacation

January 2nd - closed for Christmas vacation

February 13th – closed for President's day

May 1st - closed for Greek Easter

May 29th - closed for Memorial Day

Important Celebration Dates:

- December 19th – Christmas Celebration

- March 20th – Greek Independence Day

*First day of Greek school is September 12, 2020

*Last day of Greek school is June 5, 2021

Meet Our Greek School Teachers!



Eva Spirakis

Eva was born in San Francisco, but her family decided to return to Greece when she was 10 years old. She spent her formative years in the coastal city of Kalamata. After graduating high school and achieving certificates in English proficiency from universities there, her plan was to remain and teach English in Greece. However, after returning for visits to California, she ultimately decided to move back to San Francisco in 1998 for undergraduate studies. She fell in love with Sociology, and paired it with a Modern Greek Studies minor, during her studies at San Francisco State University. Eva has been teaching at the Greek School of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco since 2012. Her son, William, attends the school.



Liza Koukkou

Liza Koukkou was born in Russia of Greek parents and moved to Greece with her family at the age of 7. She graduated from the University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki with a major in Economics. During her studies, she worked as a private tutor for elementary and middle school children. She moved to San Francisco in 2009. Liza graduated from the Multiple Subject Teaching Credential program of San Francisco State University in 2013. She has been working as a substitute teacher across all grades of elementary schools for the Moraga School District in the East Bay where she resides with her family. She has been teaching at the Greek School of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco since 2012. She has two children who are both students at our school. Liza is a native speaker of Greek and Russian.



Ioanna Vlachou

Ioanna Vlachou was born and raised in Athens, Greece. In 2006, she graduated from the University of the Aegean, Lesvos, with a major in Cultural Anthropology and History. Soon after, she realized her love for working with children and entered the National and Kapodistrian University in Athens to obtain a second major in Preschool Education. In 2015, she moved to Berlin, Germany, where she worked at a bilingual Greek-German preschool, teaching Greek. In 2017, she moved to the Bay Area. Since then she has been teaching at the Greek School of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco and the Holy Cross Belmont Greek School, teaching Greek at all levels.

more teachers next page

το μεγάλο σχολείο, το σχολείο μου



Ioli Advani was born and raised in Nicosia, Cyprus. She started her studies in computer science in Grenoble, France, but after a year she moved to the United States when she was awarded a Fulbright scholarship. She obtained a Bachelors degree from the University of West Chester in Pennsylvania and a Masters from the University of Delaware, both in Computer Science. She started her career as an IT programmer with AT&T Bell Labs. Switching gears, she moved to Hong Kong to become the European marketing manager for a local company, and eventually moved to Europe. As a freelance Information Technology consultant, she undertook a number of positions with software development companies, including Société General Bank Cyprus. Her love for academia ultimately won, and she accepted a Computer Science teaching position at Philips College in Nicosia, Cyprus, while concurrently offering private tutoring in Computer Science and English to high school students. In 2015, she moved to San Francisco where she trained to be a docent at the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco and also taught Greek at the Holy Cross Belmont Greek School. She has been teaching at the Greek School of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco since 2017.

*We venerate Thy Cross,
O Master, and we glorify
Thy holy Resurrection.*

–Tone Six



Loukia Papadopoulou was born and raised in Greece. She graduated with a degree in Mathematics from the University of Ioannina. She came to the United States to attend graduate school where she obtained her Master's degree in Computer Science from the University of San Francisco in 1990. While a graduate student, Loukia started teaching at the Greek School of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. A few years later she assumed the role of the school Director in addition to her teaching position. In 2001, Loukia moved to San Ramon in order to be closer to her full-time job, as Principal Architect at AT&T, and to devote more time raising her daughter Zoe. She stopped teaching at the Annunciation a couple years later. However, she wasn't able to stay away from teaching Greek and therefore, taught at the Greek School of the Resurrection Greek Orthodox Church in Castro Valley from 2006 - 2008. When her daughter moved to college, she decided to come back to where she began, and has been teaching at the Greek School of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco since 2017. Over the years, Loukia has tutored many children and adults and has held a position as a Greek translator for "Fluent Language Solutions". Loukia's greatest gratification is to watch her first students, adults now, bring their own children to attend the Greek School at the Annunciation Cathedral.

If you are interested in enrolling your child/children in any one of these programs, or if there is any interest in adult Greek classes, please send a quick note to Shu at 415-518-8750 or email greek-school@annunciation.org



Announcing: Virtual Sunday School!

Last month we kicked off our Virtual Sunday School and it was very well received by students and teachers alike. We are so happy that we are able to keep our kids connected to their church and their faith despite still being physically restricted from coming to the church. We would like to extend heartfelt gratitude to our teachers, Maria Allen, Christina Vasquez, Athena (Tina) Kontonis, and Kelly Rakos for adapting so smoothly to the new virtual format.

Father Stephen had this message of encouragement for our teachers after their first virtual class of the school year:

"I heard the good news and wish to commend you all for the success of yesterday's classes. Kudos to the teachers and the students (and, of course, to our technology team)!"

The expression *η καλή ημέρα φαίνεται από το πρωί* holds true (roughly translated: you can tell from the morning whether it's going to be a good day). Let's build on yesterday's success. In this way, religious education can become front and center in these disconcerting times, as we come to realize that the Lord is the center of our lives. In Him is our hope and our salvation.

Meanwhile, may God continue to bless you and your ministry as you heed the Scriptures: "*Teach children how they should live, and they will remember it all their life*" (Proverbs 22:6, Good News translation)"

-Father Stephen

If you would like to enroll your child in Virtual Sunday School please visit: <https://annunciation.org/ministries/sunday-school>

Sacraments and Services

Sophie Pagonis, who fell asleep in the Lord on September 1, was buried September 20. She is survived by her daughters, Anna Pagonis Pitts and Helen Pagonis.

*Αιώνια ἡ μνήμη!
Eternal Memory!*

CONDOLENCES

The Cathedral expresses condolences to Paul Gikas and his family upon the recent falling asleep in the Lord of his mother, Mary Gikas.

The Cathedral extends condolences to Bob Lyberopoulos and his family upon the recent falling asleep in the Lord of his mother, Toula Lyberopoulos.

*Αιώνια ἡ μνήμη!
Eternal Memory!*

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

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Dark orange skies covered northern California as the aftermath of the fires penetrated the air. Pictured here is the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in San Francisco, CA on the morning of September 9, 2020. *(Photo courtesy of the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco, CA)*