



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

WINTER 2022

Cathedral Launches Exciting New Youth Program

In September of this year we launched a new and unique all-encompassing youth program at the Cathedral known as **Elpida**. This program began as the vision of one of our own young mothers, **Mia Fanourgiakis**. Mia applied her expertise and professional experience as a science teacher to create fun, hands-on learning exercises for kids to comprehend essential teachings of our Faith. The program offers classes for all ages currently one Sunday a month, and also offers additional events such as luncheons, a Lenten Retreat this March, and even a High School dance as well! If you are interested in learning more about this program and how your children can get involved, please contact Mia at mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org

see page 8 for more photos!



Fun at SF's Only Greek Festival



see page 4 for more photos!

Revitalization Committee formed following seminar

On Saturday November 12th, His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea, the members of the Parish Council along with the leaders of various Annunciation ministries were invited to attend an all-day leadership retreat at the Cathedral. The retreat master was Steve Tibbs who currently leads the Orthodox Parish Leadership Ministry for the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. He is also the author of "Parish Strategic Planning; A Guidebook for our Parishes".

At the retreat, utilizing group exercises and discussions, seven areas were identified as priorities for improvement at the Cathedral for the upcoming year and beyond. These areas are:

Youth Ministries	Stewardship	
Parish Culture	Worship	Change Management
Fellowship	Parish Communication	

At the conclusion of the retreat, volunteers were asked to form a committee to follow up, make recommendations and implement action items. The members of this new committee are PC members **Philip Athanasiades, Deno Konstantinidis, and Jim Rakos**. The committee will be meeting on a weekly basis and, to date, has made the following recommendations to the Parish Council:

- Produce a monthly article for the herald with updates on what is being discussed and acted upon by the PC, i.e., construction updates, stewardship updates, other committee updates, upcoming events, etc.
- Display various financial reports (financial statements, budgets, stewardship updates, PC meeting minutes) regularly on the Church bulletin board.
- The Parish Council will volunteer and host periodic Sunday brunches after Liturgy at least four times a year including a Palm Sunday fish luncheon and a Godparents luncheon (date to be determined).
- Allocate funding to improve the regular Sunday coffee hour.
- Creation of a new men's ministry to consist of a monthly or bi-monthly dinner gathering to be hosted at the Cathedral with a spiritual centered discussion to follow.
- Reestablish the Cathedral's Soup Kitchen program.

We are looking forward to reinvigorating our parish and are open to hearing any suggestions that may further this work. Please reach out to Phillip, Deno or Jim to share your ideas.



Axios to Father Stephen on 50 years of priesthood

On December 3rd, 2022 Father Stephen celebrated his 50th Anniversary of his Ordination to the Holy Priesthood. He was ordained Deacon by Metropolitan Silas on Oct. 28, 1972 and was ordained Priest by Archbishop Iakovos on Dec. 3, 1972. Both ordinations occurred at the Archdiocesan Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, New York, NY where Father Stephen's ministry began.

He then continued on to serve at two parishes in Rhode Island before arriving here in San Francisco where the past 35 of his 50 years of ministry has been spent faithfully and lovingly serving the good people of the Annunciation Cathedral.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Father Stephen for his pastoral care over the years and we congratulate him on this amazing milestone in his ministry. Πάντα ἄξιος! Ever worthy!



Christmas Card Fundraiser:

The Nativity Season is upon us so we are preparing our annual Christmas Card fundraiser. Every year we send a beautiful card greeting to our entire community mailing list displaying the names of the families of the Cathedral. In order to have your name included in this year's card please contact **Kalliope Fousekis and Irene Kyriacou**. The suggested donation is \$30.

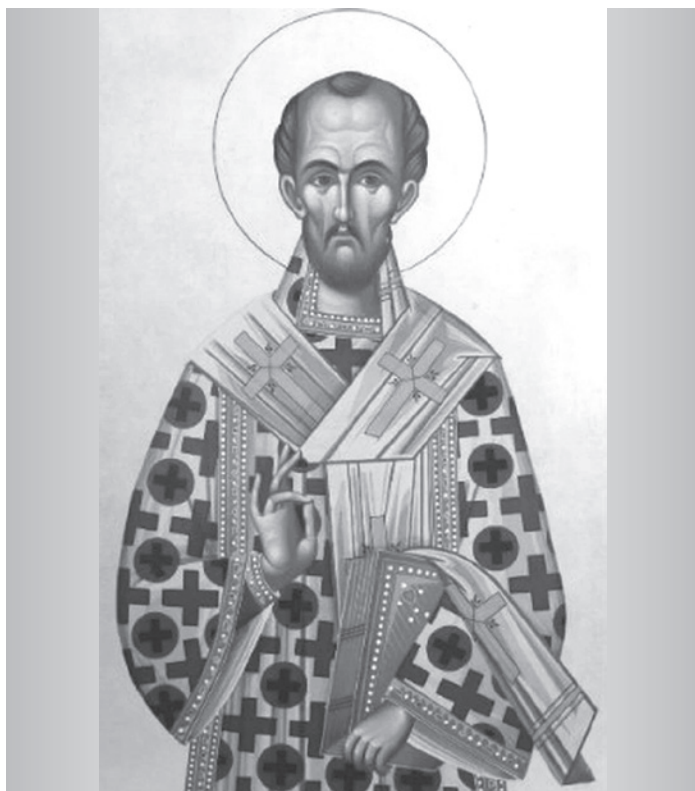
Nativity Sermon of Saint John Chrysostom

Behold a new and wondrous mystery.

My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The Archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised.

Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed; He had the power; He descended; He redeemed; all things yielded in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, because of impassability, remaining unchanged.

And so the kings have come, and they have seen the heavenly King that has come upon the earth, not bringing with Him Angels, nor Archangels, nor Thrones, nor Dominations, nor Powers, nor Principalities, but, treading a new and solitary path, He has come forth from a spotless womb.



Since this heavenly birth cannot be described, neither does His coming amongst us in these days permit of too curious scrutiny. Though I know that a Virgin this day gave birth, and I believe that God was begotten before all time, yet the manner of this generation I have learned to venerate in silence and I accept that this is not to be probed too curiously with wordy speech.

For with God we look not for the order of nature, but rest our faith in the power of Him who works.

What shall I say to you; what shall I tell you? I behold a Mother who has brought forth; I see a Child come to this light by birth. The manner of His conception I cannot comprehend.

Nature here rested, while the Will of God labored. O ineffable grace! The Only Begotten, Who is before all ages, Who cannot be touched or be perceived, Who is simple, without body, has now put on my body, that is visible and liable to corruption. For what reason? That coming amongst us he may teach us, and teaching, lead us by the hand to the things that men cannot see. For since men believe that the eyes are more trustworthy than the ears, they doubt of that which they do not see, and so He has deigned to show Himself in bodily presence, that He may remove all doubt.

Christ, finding the holy body and soul of the Virgin, builds for Himself a living temple, and as He had willed, formed there a man from the Virgin; and, putting Him on, this day came forth; unashamed of the lowliness of our nature.

For it was to Him no lowering to put on what He Himself had made. Let that handiwork be forever glorified, which became the cloak of its own Creator. For as in the first creation of flesh, man could not be made before the clay had come into His hand, so neither could this corruptible body be glorified, until it had first become the garment of its Maker.

What shall I say! And how shall I describe this Birth to you? For this wonder fills me with astonishment. The Ancient of

see page 4

from page 3

days has become an infant. He Who sits upon the sublime and heavenly Throne, now lies in a manger. And He Who cannot be touched, Who is simple, without complexity, and incorporeal, now lies subject to the hands of men. He Who has broken the bonds of sinners, is now bound by an infants bands. But He has decreed that ignominy shall become honor, infamy be clothed with glory, and total humiliation the measure of His Goodness.

For this He assumed my body, that I may become capable of His Word; taking my flesh, He gives me His spirit; and so He bestowing and I receiving, He prepares for me the treasure of Life. He takes my flesh, to sanctify me; He gives me His Spirit that He may save me.

Come, then, let us observe the Feast. Truly wondrous is the whole chronicle of the Nativity. For this day the ancient slavery is ended, the devil confounded, the demons take to flight, the power of death is broken, paradise is unlocked, the curse is taken away, sin is removed from us, error driven out, truth has been brought back, the speech of kindness diffused, and spreads on every side, a heavenly way of life has been implanted on the earth, angels communicate with men without fear, and men now hold speech with angels.

Why is this? Because God is now on earth, and man in heaven; on every side all things commingle. He became Flesh. He did not become God. He was God. Wherefore He became flesh, so that He Whom heaven did not contain, a manger would this day receive. He was placed in a manger, so that He, by whom all things are nourished, may receive an infants food from His Virgin Mother. So, the Father of all ages, as an infant at the breast, nestles in the virginal arms, that the Magi may more easily see Him. Since this day the Magi too have come, and made a beginning of withstanding tyranny; and the heavens give glory, as the Lord is revealed by a star.

To Him, then, Who out of confusion has wrought a clear path, to Christ, to the Father, and to the Holy Spirit, we offer all praise, now and forever. Amen.

More Fun at the Festival







Exciting Updates Regarding “Annunciation Cathedral Adopt a Paver” Program November 1, 2022

As we approach the beautiful Holidays of Christmas and New Years there is a way to bring recognition and honor to your family or organization and to show your support and love for the Annunciation Cathedral.

To date, almost 150 families and organizations have “Adopted an Annunciation Cathedral Paver” and either has already been inscribed or is being inscribed soon.

Would it not be wonderful if all the Annunciation Cathedral members, families, organizations and those who have a historical affinity and love for the Annunciation Cathedral, and who have not, as yet, adopted an “Annunciation Cathedral Paver” to join the 150 families and organizations that have adopted a paver, by also adopting a paver.

For a \$2,000.00 contribution, which can be contributed, as follows:

- 1 payment of \$2,000.00
- 2 payments of \$1,000.00 each
- 4 payments of \$500.00 each

There are several benefits to “Adopting an Annunciation Cathedral Paver”

- You will have your family’s names and up to 75 characters message in up to 3 lines inscribed permanently onto a 24 Inch by 24 inch paver that will be located in the central Fountain Courtyard and is accessible to the 1) the New Annunciation Cathedral, 2) the current Annunciation Chapel, 3) the Annunciation Cathedral Community Center.
- Your family or organization’s paver inscription will be visible for decades to all who visit the Annunciation Cathedral.
- Your contribution is Tax Deductible
- Your contribution will be applied to completing the rebuilding of our Annunciation Cathedral

For further information about “Adopting an Annunciation Cathedral Paver” please contact Jim Vorrises, Annunciation Cathedral Paver Chairman at 650-464-1616 or at jim.vorrises@annunciation.org



Welcome to another year of helping others, compassionate giving and fellowship.

We are inviting all women 18 years old and over to embrace your spiritual monetary pledge and support our philanthropic endeavors through your donation and participation. As our Ladies Society continues to meet the increasing demands of our ever changing world we are asking you to get involved. Share your time, talents and skills to make a difference in our parish, Greek and local communities.

If at the present time your schedule does not allow you to be active, you can still become a member and help us accomplish our missions.

We look forward to having you as a member and sharing your ideas.

WHAT DOES PHILOPTOCHOS DO?

- Aid the poor, sick and those in need
- Address the needs in our neighborhood and make a difference
- Promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic purposes
- Preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian concepts, family and promote our faith and traditions
- Support our seminarians and students of the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
- Fulfill our obligations and commitments to our Cathedral, The Metropolis and National Philoptochos ministries

Commitments

During the 2021-2022 year Annunciation Philoptochos once again rose to the challenge of helping those in need. Through our fund raising efforts and individual contributions, we met our goals. The combined donations to our national, metropolis and local charities totaled over \$21,500.

National

Vasilopita Fund
Social Services Fund
Cancer/Other Major Illness Fund
Autism Assistance Fund
Saint Photios Fund
Orthodox Mission Fund
Support a Mission Priest Fund
Hellenic College Holy Cross Lenten Event Fund
Sisterhood of Saint Basil Academy Fund
75th Anniversary Founders Fund
Orthodox Christian Fellowship Fund
Hellenic College Holy Cross Scholarship Fund
Retired Clergy/Widowed Presvyteras Benevolent Fund
National Philoptochos Emergency Fund
Ecumenical Patriarchate Fund
National Sisterhood of Presvyteras APC/NSP
Benevolent Fund
UNICEF
General Medical Fund
IOCC

Metropolis

Social Services Fund
Kids N' Cancer Camp Agape
Women's Health and Wellness
Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center
Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student
Aid Endowment Fund
Adopt a Student Holy Cross Seminary
Saint Basil Academy

Greek community and local neighborhood

Community Kitchen
Angel Tree Gift Giving
Sanchez Elementary School
Scholastic Scholarships
Outreach Homebound Parishioners
Food Festival and Ad Book
Dance Group
Elpida



Please fill out this membership form and return it with your pledge to:

Annunciation Philoptochos
245 Valencia Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Name _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

*** Check or credit card accepted ***

Credit Card Number

CVV Exp Month Exp Year

Membership Pledge is for the calendar year.

- Angel (minimum pledge of \$50)
 Faithful (pledge of \$100)
 Joyful (pledge of \$200)
 Star (amount \$ _____)



PHILOPTOCHOS
CONTINUED

Upcoming Events

2022

December 11-Christmas Coffee
hour and Bake sale pick up

2023

January 8-Vasilopita Celebration

February 10-Crab Feed

March 25-Feast Day of the Annunciation Lunch

May 13-Mother's Day Luncheon

FUTURE CHARITIES

- Additional neighborhood school support (gift cards, uniforms, sweaters)
- Winter Wear Collection Drive-partnering with Mission Neighborhood Health Center to provide warm winter clothing (coats, scarves, gloves)
- Hug A Bear-providing soft cuddly bears for children in difficult / traumatic situations
- Dress for Success-partnering with this non profit organization that help women thrive in work and in life

Let all that you do, be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



More from the Youth Program



Greek School started its 2022-2023 school year on Saturday, September 10, 2022. We were so excited to welcome back our students and to also welcome in many new students and families. We now have two adult language classes: one beginner level and one intermediate level!

For the 2022-2023 school year, we welcomed Ms. Maria Panoutsopoulou as our Kindergarten teacher. Maria was born in Athens and raised in the southern suburb of Attika, Argyroupoli. She received a B.A. in Psychology from the University of La Verne, Athens campus. She then continued her studies in the United States where she received an Associate degree in Child Development at the City College of San Francisco. At City College of SF, she received Certificates of Achievement in Child Development, specifically in i) infant/toddler care ii) special education early intervention focus and iii) violence intervention in early childhood. Maria also received a B.A. in Classics, magna cum laude from San Francisco State University.

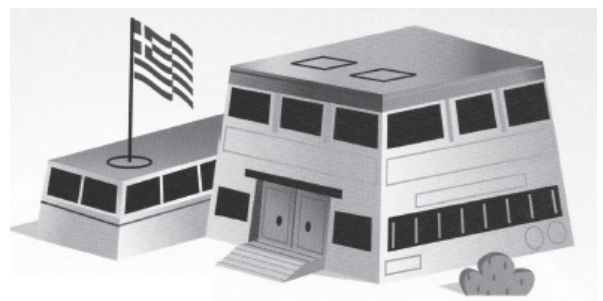
With Ms. Panoutsopoulou's impressive educational credentials and her natural talent to work with children, we are so blessed to have her at Annunciation Cathedral's Greek school.

Όχι Day

In October, our students learned about Όχι day, a day that falls on October 28 of each year and is celebrated in Greece and in Greek communities around the world.

On October 28, 1940, Greek General Ioannis Metaxas was given an ultimatum by Italian dictator Mussolini, demanding that Greece allow the Axis forces to enter Greek territory and occupy areas within Greece, or face immediate war. General Metaxas rejected the ultimatum and responded with "Όχι" or "No". In response to Metaxas' rejection, the Greek border was attacked, which marked the beginning of Greece's war with Italy and participation in World War II. On this day, we commemorate the bravery of those generations before us.

Here are photos from two of our classes:



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

Greek School





Please Join Annunciation Cathedral's

Philoptochos

for their



Holiday CLOTHING DRIVE

Sunday, December 18th, After Drive Liturgy

Clothing Drop Off Location

**Annunciation Cathedral's
Administration Office**

245 Valencia Street
San Francisco,
California
94103



Accepting Donations for Adult Sized:

**Sweaters • Coats
Jackets • Hats • Gloves
Scarves & Socks**

**Please make sure clothing is either
new, or in wearable condition**

Contact Grace Koutoulas: grace.koutoulas@annunciation.org
Vivian Curd: vscrud@sanbrunocable.com for more information

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
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