



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



“Christ is born; glorify Him! Christ is come from Heaven; go and meet Him. Christ is on earth; arise to Him. Sing to the Lord, all who dwell on the earth; and in merry spirits, O you people, praise His birth. For He is glorified!”

My friends, those beautiful words are the Katavasia of Christmas and sung in the Matins service on Sunday mornings leading up to Christmas. A beautiful hymn to remind us that the Christmas season is upon us. It also reminds us to prepare us for the blessed event of His birth.

The holiday season is one filled with joy and warmth, love and kindness. I find myself reflecting upon the overpowering significance of this time - the celebration of our Lord’s Nativity. The humble birth of Jesus Christ in a lowly manger reminds us of the profound beauty found in simplicity and humility. In a world often filled with grandeur, His arrival teaches us the enduring power of modesty and the importance of embracing simplicity in our lives.

The story of His birth serves as a guiding light, illuminating the path toward compassion, kindness and goodwill towards others. It’s a gentle reminder that the greatest gifts often come in the simplest forms - love, empathy and understanding. As we celebrate this sacred event, may we also personify the spirit of humility. May we share the blessings of the season with those around us, and may our actions mirror the grace and compassion of our Savior.

On behalf of Presvytera Mary, my family and myself, wishing all of you a Christmas filled with warmth of togetherness, and the joy of His truest blessings.

+Fr. Angelo Pappas

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES

On Monday, December 25 we will celebrate Orthros and Hierarchical Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos will celebrate Liturgy along with His Grace Bishop Ioannis and Father Angelo Pappas. **Orthros will begin at 8:30am followed by Hierarchical Divine Liturgy at 9:45am.** We look forward to celebrating Christmas with you and your loved ones.



HOLIDAY BAZAAR

see page 6

Pledged Stewards • 2023

Thank you to all those that have pledged and fulfilled their commitment during 2023. For those with a balance, please take a few minutes to make your final payment for 2023. You may make a payment via our website (please clearly mark it is for stewardship), or mail a check in to the Church.

Aleck, Demetria
Aleck, Patricia
Allen, Maria & Andrew
Ambus, Anthony & Zetta
Ambus, Dr. Antonia
Ambus, Dr. George & Tessa
Arsinoos, Mariam
Asimos, Chrisula
Athanasiaides, Philip & Diala
Bagatelos, Karen
Bagatelos, Margarita
Bagatelos, Michael
Bagatelos, Peter A.
Balian, Annamarie & Robert
Balian, Nicholas M.
Banks, Bradley
Bardis, John & Kathleen
Barlas, Constantine
Bazgan, George
Benevity Taptelis, Tom & Helen
Bissas, Maria
Boutiette, Mary Ann & Andrew
Bozionelos, Jim & Florika
Cazanis, Katerina & Peter
Cheong, Bryan
Chicos, Mary
Cocoles, Jim & Luba
Consos, James
Contos, Christopher
Costouros, Dr. & Mrs. John
Cruz, John
Curd, Vivian & John
Dakis, Mrs. Elli
Davies, Ethel
Dekaristos, Mrs. Anastasia
Dekaristos, Evangelos
Dekaristos, George & Niki
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie
Dermitzakis, Katherine
Destein, Patricia
Dhawan, Anirudh & Brittany

Doukas, Steve
Drogitis, Joanne
Economides, Nicholas & Janine
Efstratis, Jenny Dedo & Greg
Eliopoulos, Mr. John
Eliopoulos, Louie
Elite, Dr. Anthony
Fanourgiakis, Mike & Mia
Fanourgiakis, Nick
Farmas, Demitra
Fkiaras, Evgenia
Fonti, George & Sophia
Fotenos, Mr. James F.
Fousekis, Mr. & Mrs. Vlasis and Kalliope
Fragakis, Charalambos & Marianthe
Franco, Mrs. Helen
Garibaldi, David & Kathie
Garibaldi, Nicole & Michael
Gavallos, Victor D
Gaynor, Paul
Gazulis, Theodore & Christine
Paul and Melten Gekas
Georges, Alexander C. W.
Georgiadis, John & Sophia
Glafkides, Mr. & Mrs. Constantine
Grampsas, Bonnie
Haginicols, Leo & Tiffany
Haralabopoulos, Peter
Haralambopoulos,
Constantine & Eleftheria
Haras, Panagiota
Hernandez, Mr. Jose &
Sofia Kleftogionne
Holloway, Vicki Eleni
Kakos, Katherine
Kallas, Mrs. Louise
Kalligeros, George
Karas, Bill
Karas, Chris
Karas, Kathy
Karsant, Dr. & Mrs. Constantine

Kasolas, Michael & Stella
Kastoras, Athanasios & Niki
Katsanis, Gari
Kavalaris, James & Joanne
Kleinekorte, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Kokalis, Despina Nick
Konstantinidis, Deno C. & Bella
Konstantinidis, Taia
Kontonis, Mr. & Mrs. Nick
Kosaris, Paul & Irene
Kottas, Angelos
Kouropoulos, Georgia
Koutoulas, Angelo & Victoria
Koutoulas, Dina
Koutoulas, Panagiota
Koutoulas, Pete & Voula
Kozak, Alexandros & Erin Peterson
Kratsas, John
Kyriacou, Mr. & Mrs. Chris
Kyriacou, Rev. Stephen & Aliki
Lampros, Mr. John & Magda
Lawrence, Effie & Stephen
Leventis, Angie
Lyberopoulos, Kosta
Lyberopoulos, Bob & Lea
Lyberopoulos, Kellie
Makras, Effie
Makras, Elaine
Makras, Sophie
Makras, Thalia
Manetas, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Mares, Kathryn
Markanton, Helen
Mastrokyriakos, Christos & Melisa
Mastrokyriakos, Nikolaos & Anna
Mattis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Mavrakakis, Mary
Mavroudis, Aglaia
Mavroudis, Tasso & Natalia
McKnight, Nektarios L.
Melitas, Irene

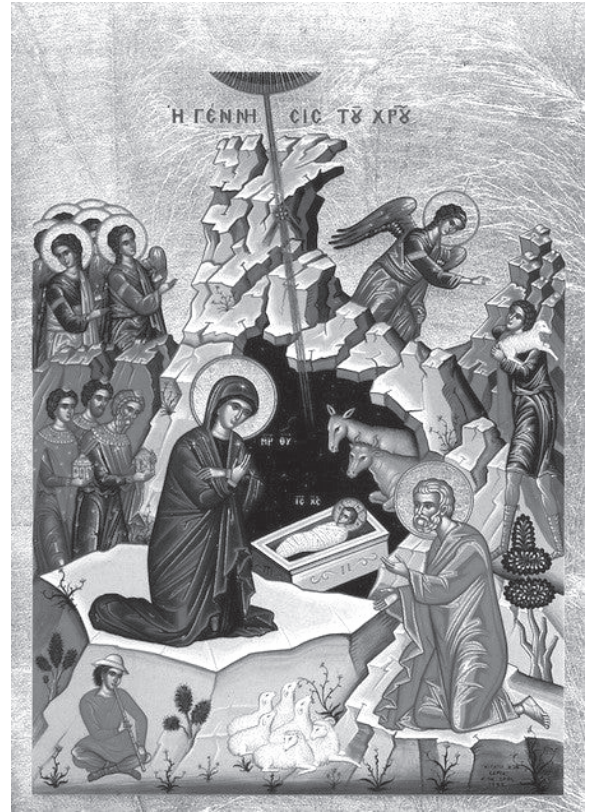
We appreciate the support you have given over this past year! So many parishioners are getting involved in record numbers. Our Church and Community are getting stronger everyday! We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Thank you!

Mellos, Faye & Michael Holland
 Misthos, Michael & Christina
 Moniodis, Stamatios
 Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Monte
 Morales, Mrs. Helen
 Morales, Robert
 Morearty, Margaret Fotinos
 Moulas, Mrs. Vasiliki
 Moulas, Vicky A.
 Mouroufas, Tula
 Nager, Perri
 Nashawati, Bashar & Roud
 Nicolacakis, Maria & Dean
 Nicolas, Helen
 Nikoloudakis, Konstantinos
 Novo, Dustin & Chrisula Bissas
 Nuris, Manoli
 Nuris, Manuel & Teia
 Nuris, Matthew
 Nuris, Thomas & Liberty
 Oliver, Christopher & Elena
 Ossipoff, Alexander & Lula
 Panagiotopoulos, Anton & Sotiria
 Panagiotopoulos, Magdalini
 Panagotacos, Dr. Peter
 Panomitros, John & Helen
 Pantages, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
 Papadakis, Spiros & Georgia
 Papageorge, Mr. and Mrs.
 Petros & Nicole
 Papageorge, Mr. & Mrs. Tom
 Papageorgiou, Dr. Sophia
 Papavasiliou, George & Lea
 Papingu, Robert & Alma
 Pappas, Voula
 Pappis, Loula
 Parashis, Marion
 Patropulos, Joan
 Pavlakos, Rose
 Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert
 Petrou, Janis G.

Pezo, Lester & Chrisoula
 Piccinini, Pamela
 Polyzos, Maria & Jason
 Pope, Agalia
 Pope, Antoinette
 Poulakidas, Dean
 Poulakidas, Jennifer
 Poulakidas, Sakee & Irene
 Poulos, Despina
 Rakos, Alexis 1
 Rakos, Anastasia
 Rakos, Jim & Kelly
 Rakos, Nicholas
 Rally, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
 Ramos, Christopher
 Rangaves, Kay
 Rangaves, Mr. & Mrs. George
 Raptis, Evangelia
 Razis, Mrs. Harklia
 Roberts, Ms. Erica
 Roumeliotes, Valerie
 Sarikakis, Emilia
 Sarikakis, Mr. & Mrs. Mike
 Serveta, Vasiliki (Vicky)
 Shatara, Nader & Sawsan
 Shu Yeung & Kotsonis, Dr. Peter
 Simotas, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry
 Siouris, Michele Y.
 Skinas, Stavroula & Kosmas
 Sogotis, Mrs. Rose
 Sogotis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
 Spachis, Mike & Vicky
 Spiliotis, Dana Marhon & Charles
 Spiliotis, Despena & Paul
 Stamatopoulos, Anna
 Stathopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Marios
 Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Peter C.
 Svetcoff, Nicholas
 Tamaras, Joy
 Tarlson, Mr. & Mrs. Nick G.
 Thomas, Mr. James

Thompson, Stephanie & Jeffrey
 Tonas, Basil & Mary
 Tostado, Daniel & Lea
 Tsagaris, Eleni
 Tsagaris, Aphrodite
 Tsifouradis, Helen
 Vafiadis, Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos
 Vafiadis, Mrs. Irene
 Varanis, Nickolas & Lourdes
 Vardakastanis, Bobby & Katerina
 Vardakatsanis, Dimitri & Penelope
 Vasilogiorgis, Foula
 Vavuris, Mr. & Mrs. James & Maria
 Vellis, Aris and Kathy
 Vellis, Costas & Meena
 Verreos, Adrienne
 Vlahos, George V.
 Vorrises, Angelo J.
 Vorrises, Denis J. & Renee
 Vorrises, Louise & James
 Vorrises, Marie & Lukehart, Ryan
 Vorrises, Mr. & Mrs. George
 Vorrises, Stephanie & Nanette
 Vriheas, Loula
 Wertz, Robert
 Wiener, Carl A
 Yeilding, Denise
 Yeilding, Kevin
 York, Bessie
 Zarikos, Angie
 Zarou, Andrew & Evangelia
 Zografos, Judi, Sam & Taso
 Zografos, Mrs. Evanthia

***Please excuse me if there is an error with your name or omission. Please contact the Church office ASAP for us to make a correction and post in the next Herald.*



Parish Announcements

Audit Committee

We would like to thank **Bryan Cheong** and **John Lampros** for accepting to be part of our Audit Committee this year to review our expenses and financial information for 2023. We will need one more member to make our Audit Committee complete per Archdiocese regulation. So please, if you are interested in helping us with these efforts and being part of the Audit Committee, contact Christo Pappademos at Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org so he can give you all the information you will need to be part of this important and necessary committee.

Election Committee

We would like to thank **Kathy Dermatzakis, Joanne Glafkides, and Irene Poulakidas** for accepting to be our Election Committee members. They will be counting and tallying the votes in our upcoming Parish Council Election to determine who our new board members will be as voted on by our parishioners. Thank you Kathy, Joanne, and Irene!

Parish Council Elections

On Sunday, December 17 we will be holding elections to decide our incoming Parish Council members for 2024. We encourage as many voters to participate as possible. To vote in the election one must be a pledged parishioner of the Cathedral in good standing. We thank all of our candidates who are running this year and we also thank our voters in advance.

Before the election, there will be a mandatory seminar on December 13th by invitation only from His Grace Bishop Ioannis.

The Parish Council is tasked with many responsibilities and we commend its members for coming together and working for the Cathedral. Best of luck to all candidates!

Cathedral Christmas Card

There's just a few more days to get your family's names included in our annual Annunciation Cathedral Christmas Card. This is a great way to support the Cathedral while sending out Christmas greetings to our community! The suggested donation is \$30, but please feel free to increase your family's contribution to help support our church. Payments can be made online at the Cathedral's website by clicking [here](#). You can also make a check payable to "Annunciation Cathedral" with "Christmas Card" in the memo line. Checks can be mailed to: Annunciation Cathedral Attn: Christmas Card, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Those listed in last year's card, who participate this year, will be listed the same, unless otherwise communicated. If you are new to participating in our card and are sending payment directly to the Cathedral, please include names as you would like them to appear on a separate sheet; or if paying online, include the names in the "Add a note" field. Please email Irene Kyriacou or Kalliope Fousekis for any changes or questions. Please help us get the word out to your family and friends in the community, so we don't miss anyone! We would love to add more names to our card. Wishing you health and happiness in this wonderful time of the year!

Kind Regards,
Irene & Kalliope



Dance Programs at Annunciation Cathedral

Thank you to everyone that supported our See's Candy Drive Fundraiser! A Wonderful Success!!

A Special thank you for those coming out to the Holiday Bazaar and supporting our Dance Groups by purchasing a Gyro!! Another Success and so yummy!!

Christmas Program

Sunday, December 17th our Christmas Program and Luncheon. Tickets will be sold during coffee hour. In addition to luncheon tickets, our dancers will also be selling raffle tickets to our Christmas Tree Raffle. Please join us and help our community celebrate the birth of our Savior.

Donations can also be sent via the church's donation page (please note Dance Groups when donating) **visit our website and click the donations tab**

All donations received go towards purchasing costumes and paying for musicians and workshops.

Please support our groups.

Orama (4-6 years old) directed by Evgenia Fkiaras, Taia Konstantinidis, Alexis Rakos, and Anastasia Rakos

Rizes (7-9 years old) directed by Penny Vardakastanis and Kallie Lyberopoulos

To Mellon (10-12 years old) directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata (13-15 years old) directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, Stelios Kyriacou, and Kosta Lyberopoulos

Spithes (16 years old- college age) directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou



Greek School

The Annunciation Greek School performed at our 1st

Annual Holiday Bazaar. All students in our Greek School program participated from our very young to our Adult students! Such fun listening to all our favorite Greek Christmas Carols. A tradition we will definitely want to continue! A special thank you to all those who cheered them on and sang along.

Holiday Bazaar

On Saturday, December 2, 2023, **Our Church** held its **1st Annual Holiday**

Bazaar. A New Fundraiser for us that invited the San Francisco community at large to join us! This event had a lively atmosphere with holiday music, delicious food and drink, and a wide range of local vendors offering handmade crafts and one-of-a-kind gifts. Examples of products sold included jewelry, candles, soaps, home decor, pottery, fused glass, accessories, African art, t-shirts/sweat-shirts, honey, Greek and Turkish Delicacies and more! Greek School students performed singing traditional Greek Christmas carols. We held a raffle and had so many winners! Thank you to all!! Our Philoptochos, Dance Groups, Men's Fellowship all had booths to raise money for their ministries. A Special Mention to Paul Gekas, Pauline Oetzal and Irene Melitas for their willingness to help wherever needed!

Plans are already underway to make this event even better! In our recap meeting so many new ideas were thrown around: Chestnuts roasting outside with a hot drinks bar, Garland around the front door pillars, Lots of Decor in the Hall, and so much more!!

To get involved with the 2024 Holiday Bazaar, please contact Denise Yeilding. denise.yeilding@annunciation.org







OH COME,
all ye faithful

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A
Christmas Program!



17 December
12:30 PM

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
245 VALENCIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO

Lunch Tickets will be \$25 for adults and \$15 for children under 12

SAVE THE DATE! MORE INFORMATION TO COME!



Philoptochos December 2023

Vasilopita Order Form

Order Deadline December 17th

Prepaid order pick up at SF Annunciation Cathedral

245 Valencia Street, SF

on Saturday, December 30th between 10am-1pm

| | |
|--------|--|
| Name: | |
| Phone: | |
| Email: | |

| Item | Quantity | Price | Total |
|-------------------|----------|-------|-------|
| <i>Vasilopita</i> | | \$25 | |

Mail order form with check or credit card information to Annunciation Philoptochos, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

Make check payable to Annunciation Philoptochos.

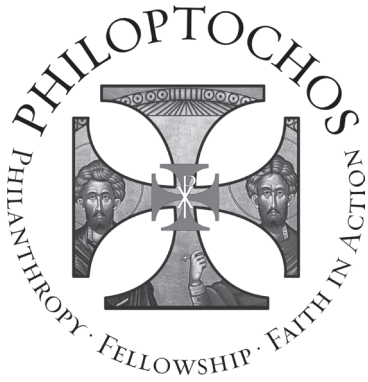
Credit Card Order:

CC Number _____ Exp. Date _____

CVV _____ ZIP Code _____

For questions, contact Maria Manetas 650-483-9418 or mmanetas@gmail.com

Bake sale proceeds to benefit the many charities and ministries that our San Francisco Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos supports.
Thank you for your order!



Philoptochos News

Christmas Pastry Bake Sale

Small boxes of kourambiethes, melomakarona and baklava will be available for sale after Liturgy on December 3rd and 10th. No pre-ordering necessary. See flyer.

Vasilopita Bake Sale

Orders of vasilopita will be available for pick up on Dec 30th. See flyer.

Philoptochos Meet & Greet – Doing it with Agape

Our first Annunciation Philoptochos Meet & Greet was a resounding success! On November 5th, over 50 women (and men) joined together at Unwine'd SF Wine Bar. The décor, furnishings, and music created a wonderful ambiance where everyone enjoyed delicious food and wine. As a fun surprise, raffle gifts contributed to the festive and joyous atmosphere. But the highlight of the evening was spending time together, making new acquaintances and reconnecting with longtime friends. We greatly appreciated all who attended and showed their support for Philoptochos. And many thanks to the planning committee for their vision, enthusiasm and determination in making this event such a success.



Calendar 2023-2024

The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos invites you to note its meeting dates and activities over the next few months.

| | |
|-------------|---|
| December 3 | Christmas Pastry Bake Sale |
| December 10 | Christmas Pastry Bake Sale |
| December 14 | Christmas Party/Lunch @ Nick's Rockaway in Pacifica |
| December 30 | Vasilopita pre-order pick up |
| January 14 | Vasilopita coffee hour |
| January 26 | Crab Feed |





PHILOPTOCHOS MEET & GREET

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

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 1734



**Annunciation Cathedral
Philoptochos**

Crab Feed

**Friday, January 26, 2024
245 Valencia Street, SF**

Dinner includes salad, pasta, crab,
dessert and wine.

**More information coming soon at
annunciation.org**

