



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

AUGUST 2018

Counting Down to Festival 2018: September 21, 22, 23

In just two months, Annunciation will hold its food festival. It will take place on our grounds at 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Friday, September 21, Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 23. By far the largest fund raiser for the Cathedral, it is also its largest social event, bringing together thousands of people for a weekend of food, fellowship, and faith. In recent years, social media has been the way people have been informed of the festival, and the growing crowds each year suggests we will expect to break another attendance record in 2018. But, we need volunteers. Volunteers to plan the festival. Volunteers to promote the festival. Volunteers to cook, organize and offer the various food items during the festival.

Cooking for the festival has begun, with the preparation of the *pastitsio* and the *moussaka*. Other food items will be prepared during the month of August and September, on the following days: **August 3, 7, 8, 9, 17, 19, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 & 26, and September 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17 & 19.** Please note the days and see whether you will be able to help out. Typically, cooking takes place between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Meanwhile, we are delighted to share with you: 1. That our courtyard is finished, so that the festival will take place, for the first time,



outdoors, as well as indoors and 2. That we will have valet parking, parking cars in our own parking structure, below the new Cathedral. Amazing progress. At long last! Due, of course, to your support and the support derived from events such as our Food Festival. A personal thank you to Deno Konstantinidis for stepping up to chair this year's Festival and to Grace Koutoulas, for stepping up, once again, to serve as co-chair. That's the Annunciation spirit!



August: Time for the Theotokos; Time for the Lord

The first 15 days of August are dedicated to the Theotokos. The first 14 are days of fasting and prayer, as we prepare to celebrate her *dormition* (her death or falling asleep in the Lord) on the 15th. The services consist of the *Paraklesis*, or Supplication Service, offered for peace in the world, for healing, protection and well-being of God's people. The *Paraklesis* will be offered Wednesday, August 1, Friday, August 3; Tuesday, August 7; Thursday, August 9; and Monday, August 13. Services will begin at 7 p.m. and conclude by 8 p.m. both

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nights at 7 p.m. On Wednesday, August 15, the Feast of the *Dormition*, the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated, beginning at 10 a.m., and preceded by Orthros, at 9 a.m. Following the Divine Liturgy, a luncheon will take place in the Cathedral's hall. The luncheon is being sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. Meanwhile, August 6 is a day of special significance, as it is the Feast of the Transfiguration of our Lord. As Scripture records, the transfiguration is when Jesus becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain. On the mountain, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then the prophets Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. The transfiguration is a theophany, that is, a revelation that Jesus is more than Moses and Elijah: He is the Son of God, and Savior of the world. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated on Monday, August 6, beginning at 10 a.m., and preceded by Orthros, at 9 a.m.

New Head of Greek School

The Annunciation Cathedral has a new head of Greek School. It is Shu Yeung. She replaces Anthi Janssens, who has stepped down after a number of years heading our program. The Cathedral thanks Anthi for her dedicated efforts. During her tenure, our program grew into the vibrant program that it is today. In recognition, Father Stephen presented her with an icon of Christ the Teacher, on June 9, as the school ended for the summer recess.



Meanwhile, Shu is the new head of school. Shu Yeung was born and raised in New York City and holds a B.A. in Economics from Cornell University and an International M.B.A. from the University of South Carolina. Professionally, Shu works in the field of Human Resources. She enjoys learning languages and has taught English to children whose first language is not English. Shu is married to Peter Kotsonis, a Greek Australian and they have a daughter, Sophia who is attending Greek school at the Annunciation Cathedral. Before moving out to San Francisco in 2012, they were in a suburb of Boston, Massachusetts where they were active parishioners with the local Greek Orthodox Church. As they are now parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral, Shu hopes to continue to guide the program to grow even more. Who knows; we may even add a level for adult Greek. In any case, Greek School resumes Saturday, September 29 (the Saturday following our Festival), beginning at 10 am. Shu and the staff look forward to welcoming our students.

THIS & THAT

Streamlining our Mailing List

Our mailing list consists of about 800 names and addresses. That is, some 800 households receive the monthly Herald and other items mail, such as stewardship packets, Christmas and Easter mailings, along with the annual calendar. All this costs money. Meanwhile, our stewardship—those who send in an annual pledge to support the Cathedral's daily needs as well as its programs—is about 330. Somehow there's this disconnect. It's like Jesus asking the lepers who were cleansed, "where are the other nine?" Why is it we have 800 on our mailing list but only 330 stewards? Thought is being given to streamlining our mailing list. That is, at the beginning of 2019, we are considering eliminating from the mailing list the names of those who are not stewards. Before we actually do so, we would like to hear from you. Your input is, as always valuable.

Stewardship What we plan to do

As noted above, the Cathedral has about 330 active families. That is, families who support the work of the church through stewardship. Every year, beginning in October or November, we've sent out stewardship pledge cards. We usually follow up with a reminder letter. By the end of the year, we reach our stewardship goal of \$300,000. For 2019, however, we are considering simplifying things. We are considering sending the 330 active families a letter confirming that your stewardship for 2019 will be the same as it is in 2018, thus eliminating the need to send out cards to everyone, along with a reminder e mail. We will have cards

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THE PRAYER OF THE ELDERS OF OPTINA*

O Lord, grant unto me that with Thy peace I may greet all that this day is to bring.

Grant unto me grace to surrender myself completely to Thy holy will. In every hour of this day instruct

see next box



Courtyard Ready (all except for the fountain): Let's Celebrate!

Amazing. Absolutely amazing. That we've come this far. All except for the fountain, and the planting of our Biblical garden, our courtyard is ready. The pavers have all been laid, grouted, and ready to be stepped on. We will have the opportunity to do so on Sunday, August 19. Following the Divine Liturgy, we will open the chapel doors and invite everyone to step out onto the courtyard, where we will be greeted with a glass of the bubbly, which will be provided by Ken Katen. Ken, as we know, is listed as "owner's representative." A member of the Annunciation Cathedral,

he oversees the building project. The photo on the right shows a portion of the completed courtyard, facing south. The photo on the right shows the installation of the exterior columns. Notice the capitals. They are inspired by the 4th century, or Theodosian, Hagia Sophia, the great church in Constantinople built under Emperor Theodosios. It stood on the same spot where the present day Hagia Sophia stands. The present day Hagia Sophia was built by the Emperor Justinian, in 537 AD.

Parking Yes, Parking, at last!

As we get closer to the opening of our parking component, pending final inspections, especially that of the elevator, we are in negotiations with a third-party company, which will operate the parking component for us. Although the primary purpose of the parking component is to provide our communicants with parking on Sundays and Holy Days, we have secured a conditional use variance which will allow us to derive income when we are not using it for services. This income will be earmarked as support for one or more of our ministries. The current thinking is that those coming to services will not have to pay for parking; they will have their tickets validated when they leave church. Until our parking component is up and running, however, we will hire a valet to park our cars. For this, we will pay \$5 per car to park. We will hire the valet on Wednesday, August 15, the feast of the Dormition, for Liturgy and the luncheon following, and then every Sunday, beginning Sunday, August 17. Until our parking component receives its final inspection, and we are able to drive down there, we will be dropping off our cars at the entry and then retrieving them, again at the entry, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy and coffee hour.



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handy only for new members. For example, for those who are new to the community and which to participate in its stewardship program. Or those who've suddenly woken up and said, "you know, this is my church, and I have to support it." Once again, we invite your input. Let us hear from you.

The Drive to Raise \$400,000

Here it is in a nutshell: Each year according to the terms of our construction loan with Five Star Bank, we are required to pay a principal reduction or balloon payment, in the amount of \$400,000, in addition to meeting our monthly interest payments. And, each year, we've been able to meet the balloon payment. This year, however, we have not been able to do this. The Capital Campaign Committee has looked to those who have made pledges to the Capital Campaign and who have balances, asking them to accelerate their payments. To some degree, we've been successful. We've been able to reduce pledges outstanding from \$631,000. to \$336,000. Some of the money has been used to pay the electrical contractor and the general contractor. All told, we have been able to gather \$300,000. of the \$400,000. due the Bank. As of this writing we are about \$100,000. short in meeting this year's balloon payment. We wanted you to know. A letter from the Capital Campaign Committee about this is forthcoming.

Looking for Web Master

We recently learned that our web master is tripling the cost for maintaining our web site. Our web site, www.annunciation.org, begun by Jim Loukas (our domain name had been secured by John Sooklaris), was a trailblazing one back in the day. Today, it is modest, although it continues to enjoy active readership. For the last several years, we've essentially used it to post timely articles, often found in the monthly Herald, to disseminate the Herald and the Sunday bulletins, and to archive these, photos, and the like. We're putting it out there: might there be someone, perhaps from our young adult group, who might be willing to maintain our site, by performing the above tasks? We're looking at about an hour a week, on average. If so, we invite you to contact Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org, or Nick Rally, head of our Technology Committee, nick@rally.us.com.

Cremation and the Church's position on Christian burial

As we live in the world, we very often become "of the world." That is, we give in to prevailing practices. One of these is cremation. More and more people opt to dispose of our dead by cremating them. The Church, however, follows the practices which we inherited from Judaism:

we bury our dead, we don't burn them. So much so that a funeral cannot be held for people who are going to be cremated. People often cite cost as a factor. It is true that burial costs, both in-ground burials and entombments, have escalated in recent years. Yet, Greek Orthodox Memorial Park, for example, has a place for the burial of poor people. It behooves us to learn more about why we bury our dead, rather than cremate them. For this, we would like to refer you to read a useful summary, utilizing the following link: <http://www.stgeorgegoc.org/pastors-corner/cremation>.

Bishop Meletios Library

As is well-known, prior to becoming Bishop of the then third Archdiocesan District, now the Metropolis of San Francisco, Bishop Meletios Tripodakis served as Dean of the Annunciation Cathedral, from 1955 to 1961. Upon his death, his books were gifted to a number of individuals. Some of these, including *Μηναία* (Monthly Orthros Service Books) and the *Θρησκευτική και Ηθική Εγκυκλοπαίδεια* (Religious and Ethical Encyclopedia), have been returned to the Cathedral, where they are now housed in the second-floor conference room. Written in Greek, the books are a treasury of knowledge, and an important part of the history of the Cathedral parish. Parishioners are invited to peruse them.

Thanking You

As we enter into the last part of 2018, we would like to take the opportunity to thank you, our parishioners and friends, for your ongoing support, both for the general operations of the Cathedral, through stewardship, and the rebuilding of the Cathedral, through the Capital Campaign. We would like to do so by printing, in the October or November issue of the Herald, an honor roll of stewards and an honor roll of donors to the Building Fund. Just wanted you to know how important you are to our church family. How your support goes a long way. First, it demonstrates your faith and your faithful response to what Jesus said (Acts 20:35), "it is more blessed to give than to receive." Second, it underscores that we are a family, all members of the Body of Christ. What each one of us does, therefore, enriches the whole body.

*and guide me in all things.
Whatever tidings I may receive
during this day, do Thou teach
me to accept tranquilly,*

see next box

*in the firm belief that Thy holy
will governs all.
Govern my thoughts and feelings
in all I do and say.
When unforeseen things occur, let
me not forget that all is sent by
Thee.
Teach me to behave sincerely and
reasonably towards everyone, that
I may bring confusion
And sorrow to no one.*

see next box

100

A joint meeting of the Parish Council and the Cathedral Philoptochos was recently held (actually, the meeting took place on Sunday, June 10). As this was a brainstorming session, ideas for our community's 100th anniversary, in 2021, were discussed. These ideas cover publication of a commemorative history, a weekend including a "family day," culminating in a grand banquet, and the creation of a steering/fund raising committee, as all 100th anniversary events will benefit the Building Fund. Jim Loukas took chairmanship of the Commemorative Book Committee and Valerie Roumeliotes took chairmanship of the Grand Banquet. This is only the beginning. We agreed to have monthly meetings. The next meeting will take place, after our Festival, namely, on Sunday, September 30th and is open to the entire community. More about this in the September Herald.

Just to reiterate, 2021 will mark the Cathedral's 100th anniversary. 100 years since it was established. Originally it was named St. Sophia Cathedral and was located at Hayes and Pierce Streets in San Francisco. In 1928, the Cathedral, as St. Sophia, was relocated to Valencia Street. It was re-named "Annunciation," in 1936. It's corporate name is United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco, The Annunciation.

biblical
religious
believe
faith
Theology
God
preach
spirituality
worship

Introduction to Orthodoxy

Introduction to Orthodoxy" Class Welcomes New Members to the Faith

The new Annunciation cathedral recalls the beauty and majesty of other churches more than a millennium old, such as Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Those who have been fortunate enough to witness its construction know that, like those older churches, it is being built to last, and one can imagine it serving the needs of the faithful, God willing, centuries from now. The building is an impressive, outward sign of our community's conscious outreach to the city and the world. By building a sanctuary for God, we are simultaneously expressing a gesture of welcome to all future generations of Orthodox Christians.

Some of them will be born into our families, while others will marry into the faith. Still others will come to us simply because they are astounded by the beauty of our worship, the richness of our theological traditions, and our special emphasis on the mystery of our intimate encounter with God. Whether future parishioners are drawn into the fold by love for its members, for their resilient, ancient faith, or by a mixture of the two, we must continue to be prepared to accommodate incoming Orthodox Christians of every background.

The Cathedral's "Introduction to Orthodoxy" class aims to facilitate the spiritual journey of those considering joining our Church. We prepare adult inquirers for their baptisms and chrismations, and we explore the richness of our faith through discussion of Holy Scripture, the theology of the Church Fathers, and the lives of the Saints. The goal of the course is to provide people with acculturation in the Church prior to their becoming full members in it.

The class has been meeting on a weekly basis. Going forward, however, it will meet two times a month. In August, the class will meet on August 5 and on August 26, beginning at 9 a.m.



Health Goods Drive

Our Young Adults, in tandem with our Ladies Philoptochos, is conducting a "health goods drive," just as we're ending our very successful socks drive. What's a "health goods drive?" Well, it means picking up a toothbrush, a small tube of toothpaste, perhaps some mouthwash. Things like this. Like the socks, the health goods will be given out to our guests who come to Community Kitchen. The next Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, August 21. Won't you bring one of the above items with you the next time you come to church and leave it in the appropriate receptacle, located in the front office? The office is the first room on your right, as you enter the building, off Valencia Street. Thank you.



People Keep Asking

People are calling the Cathedral asking questions like, How do I become Orthodox? How can I learn more about your Faith? We were raised in this or that faith (or, in one case, recently, in several faiths), or in no faith, and, seeing the Cathedral being built, we want to know more about you, as we may want to become a part of your community. When they call, we try to discern where they have been spiritually, and how we may guide them to the Lord in fellowship with His Apostolic Church. We direct them to the class we have, taught by Alex Kozak, aimed at introducing people to the Orthodox Faith. We provide Alex's e mail: [\[agkozak@sneakemail.com\]\(mailto:agkozak@sneakemail.com\). We also direct them to the Archdiocese web site, \[www.goarch.org\]\(http://www.goarch.org\). Once they're on the web site, we ask them to go to Library. Scroll down to Introduction to Orthodoxy. There, they will read: 1. an Introduction, which aims at introducing the non-Orthodox to Orthodox Christianity, 2. House of God, which describes the interior of the church building, 3. Worship, which discusses the form and characteristics of Orthodox worship, 4. Liturgy, which describes the meaning and celebration of the Eucharist, 5. Sacraments, which describes the meaning and importance of liturgical life, 6. Special Services and Blessings, which describes the non-sacramental services which contribute to spiritual life, 7. Teachings, which outlines the salient points of doctrine and basic creedal affirmations, 8. Spirituality, which discusses the meaning of theosis as the goal of Christian life, 9. History, which sketches the great epochs of Orthodoxy, and 10. The Church, which outlines the procedures for becoming a member of the Orthodox Church.](mailto:orthodoxy-</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Becoming an Orthodox Christian is a process. There is no "one rule fits all" as for the time required and the amount of learning one must undergo to become a member of the Church. For some, it's a matter of a few months; for others, a few years. But, the overwhelming consensus of those who join the Church is they feel fulfillment, they feel joy, they feel this Faith is the true Faith. The Faith we have inherited is a treasure, indeed, open to all who seek Truth. As St. Paul reminds us in his first letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:3-4), "God...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth." By the way, you don't have to be non-Orthodox to benefit from Alex's class or the articles available on www.goarch.org. Do you have a few minutes? Do you have access to the Internet? We invite you to log on. You will be glad you did.



On the next two pages, you will find the Festival Souvenir contract form and also the Donation form for underwriting the various foods served at the Festival. Because of your support, and the hard work of its chairs, Angie Leventis and Presbytera Aliki Kyriacou, the book has broken records in recent years, netting over \$65,000. last year. Our goal for this year is \$75,000. We can do it! We are pleased to share with you that donations for the food items have also broken records in recent years. We are grateful for your support and encourage you to keep doing what you are doing. As often pointed out, the Festival is not just about food; it's about community building. Both the immediate community around the Cathedral and the larger community, which has come to know and respect our faith, our traditions, and all that we stand for.



Annunciation Cathedral Presents
**SAN FRANCISCO'S ONLY
 GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL...**
 245 Valencia (between 14th St. & Duboce Ave.)
SEPT. 21, 22 & 23, 2018



PROGRAM BOOK CONTRACT

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ FAX: _____ E-MAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

**DEADLINE
 AUGUST 15**

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX:

FULL-COLOR:

Full Page (7 3/4" x 9 1/2") **\$1,000** Half Page (7 3/4" x 4 1/2") **\$500**

BLACK AND WHITE:

Outside Back Cover (8 1/2" x 11") **\$4,500** Half Page (7 3/4" x 4 1/2") **\$250**
 Inside Front Cover (7 1/2" x 10 1/2") **\$2,250** Quarter Page (3 3/4" x 4 3/4") **\$150**
 Inside Back Cover (7 1/2" x 10 1/2") **\$2,250** Business Card (3 7/8" x 2") **\$100**
 Full Page (7 3/4" x 9 1/2") **\$500** Festival Friends **\$100**

(Non-business, family name only: will be listed on separate page together with other Festival Friends)

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: aleventis3@comcast.net (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 2018
 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

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



Donation Form

NAME: _____

Address _____

Contact Phone _____ **Email Address** _____

<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Item</u>	<u>Cost</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Napkins	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastitsio	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Propane	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Moussaka	\$1,000
<input type="checkbox"/> Cleaning Supplies	\$120	<input type="checkbox"/> Bell Peppers	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Tablecloths	\$140	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Broth	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Cooking supplies	\$150	<input type="checkbox"/> Butter	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Schedule/Menu Printing	\$160	<input type="checkbox"/> Philo Dough	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Paper Towels	\$190	<input type="checkbox"/> Pastries, nuts, etc.	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Kalamata Olives	\$300	<input type="checkbox"/> Dolmades	\$800
<input type="checkbox"/> Feta Cheese	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Tiropites	\$800
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice – Inside Bar	\$300	<input type="checkbox"/> Loukoumades	\$850
<input type="checkbox"/> Cups	\$350	<input type="checkbox"/> Gyro	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Fasolakia	\$400	<input type="checkbox"/> Lamb	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Utensils	\$400	<input type="checkbox"/> Liquor	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Lemon Juice	\$400	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork Souvlaki	\$2,500
<input type="checkbox"/> Ice Outside Bar	\$500	<input type="checkbox"/> Wine	\$2,000
		<input type="checkbox"/> Water	\$1,000

Please apply towards preparation of: _____ \$ _____

All donations are fully tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "Annunciation Cathedral"

For Payment by Credit Card

American Express **Mastercard** **Visa**

Card Number: _____

Signature: _____ **Exp Date:** _____

PLEASE NOTE THAT YOUR NAME WILL BE PLACED IN THE 2018 FF Souvenir Book



Community Kitchen

The Cathedral's Community Kitchen, which began under the name "Soup Kitchen," operates the third Tuesday of every month. The volunteer work involves food prep, cooking, hall setup, serving the meal and---so important---cleanup. We also have a food pantry, so a few awesome volunteers come early to bag up canned/non-perishable goods for our guests to take with them. Some volunteers arrive earlier, but the typical timeframe is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Our Young Adults spearhead the Community Kitchen ministry. Won't you join them? Following each Community Kitchen, after cleanup, the Young Adults gather in the second-floor conference room for wine and cheese. They get to know one another better. They welcome new members. They address topical issues. And, of course, they plan for the following month's Community Kitchen. This month, Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, August 21. Our guests count on us to provide them with a hot meal, and fellowship. May we, in turn, count on you? Once again, that's Tuesday, August 21, 5:30 p.m. for set up and 6:30 p.m. for serving.



OIKOS News

Pictured above is a photo of the participants in this year's six-day icon painting workshop, taught by Dr. Theodore Papadopoulos from Larissa, Greece. Dr. Theodore offered a lesson on the icon of Christ, which the students intensively "wrote" during the 6-day period. The sessions took place in the chapel. Meanwhile, the group toured the new Cathedral, along with Father Stephen, who pointed out the architectural uniqueness of the building, which is inspired by the great churches of Constantinople, namely, the "great church of Christ," known as Hagia Sophia and nearby Haghia Irene. The workshop took place under the auspices of OIKOS. To find out more about OIKOS, please contact Dr. Katina Kostoulas (katinakost@aol.com).

Amazon Smile

A lot of us buy books, household items, and what-have-you on Amazon. If you sign up, at no cost to you, Amazon will make a contribution, based on your purchases, to the Annunciation Cathedral. If you have not already done so, visit smile.amazon.com to enroll. It's as simple as that. Make sure you log on to Amazon Smile when ordering from Amazon and tell them Annunciation Cathedral is your charity of choice. Thanks.





GOYA News

We had a blast at the K1 Speedway. Below are some photos of our kids, together with Matia Kostakis, our GOYA advisor. The next GOYA event will be attending a 49ers game. We've selected Sunday, October 7 (49ers and Arizona Cardinals). The game starts at 1:25 p.m., so there's time to come to church first. However, in order to complete the booking, that is, in order to get the group discount. If you haven't already done so, please confirm your attendance with Matia: MatiaK23@gmail.com





Young Adults

Our Young Adults are becoming increasingly involved in the life of the Church. They are worshipping on Sundays and, after a number of years, are still hands on in charge of our Community Kitchen, which is held the third Tuesday of every month. Hardly a Sunday goes by when we don't welcome a new Young Adult or two. Some come from parishes clear across the country. Others are more local. Some come immediately upon arrival. Others do so after months of living in the City. Some scope us out, visiting other Bay Area churches, to determine if we're a good fit for them. Let's face it, different strokes for different folks. Some like more Greek in the Liturgy, others less. Still others are looking for a more "spiritual" or "engaging" parish. Others show up when they need a certificate of membership because they want to baptize someone or because they're going to be married. No matter what, we are impressed by the genuine interest of our Young Adults and we welcome them. We're here to serve. And, we invite them to become involved in the life of the parish, certainly in the monthly Community Kitchen and our get-togethers afterwards, as well as the following, designed exclusively for them:

METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT CAMPING TRIP
August 31-September 3, 2018 (Labor Day Weekend)
Near Chico, CA

METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT FALL RETREAT
October 12-14, 2018
St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA

The Cathedral Young Adults are responsible for starting the Soup Kitchen (now Community Kitchen) at the Cathedral. While others come and volunteer, it is the Young Adults who are spearheading this ministry. After everything is cleaned up, the Young Adults convene in the second-floor conference room for fellowship and discussion, over wine and cheese. Meanwhile, we have a special Young Adult Paraklesis scheduled at the Cathedral for Friday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner on the upper deck (similar to the one we had following the Presanctified Divine Liturgy, during the Great Lent). The reason we are holding the Paraklesis after

the 15th is so that we can have non-Lenten food. And, as for the Paraklesis service, this can be offered at any time, for it is a prayer asking the Theotokos to intercede for us.



Dance Group News

The Annunciation dance program resumes Sunday, August 19. Our program encompasses dancers from Pre-K to adult. The goal of our program is to cultivate appreciation of Greek culture and heritage through dance while also fostering fellowship in our youth and community. Therefore, the families of our dancers are stewards of the parish. All groups attend the annual Folk Dance Festival (FDF), sponsored by the Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco. During the year, dance groups perform at Annunciation's Greek Festival as well as other special events.

With the exception of our Young Adults, our groups will be practicing on Sundays, beginning at 12:30 p.m. We recognize that space constraints pose a challenge, but we have to make it work. So, we appear to be crowded on Sundays. We are. And we should be. After all, it's God's people, gathered in His temple, glorifying His holy Name. Interested in joining our award-winning groups? Contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com.

The Cathedral's dance groups are:

To Mellon: Pre-K-1st grade (must be at least 5 years old in Fall 2017)

Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 2nd-4th grade in Fall 2018

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Trina Misthos and Eleni Taptelis

Thisavri: 5th-7th grade in Fall 2018

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 8th -12th grade in Fall 2018

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Atithasi: Young Adults

Directed by Michael Garibaldi and Nicole Garibaldi



Sunday School News

“Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy.”





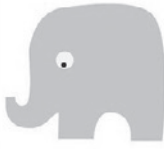







~Saint Theophan the Recluse

Our Sunday School ended for the summer on Sunday, June 3. It will resume on Sunday, September 9, at 10:30 a.m. We cannot stress how important religious education is. We recognize the challenges posed by so many other pursuits—sports, dance, extracurricular activities. However, the Faith is taught in the home and is reinforced in the church. If not, then we risk raising a generation of young people whose only connection with the Church is that they played basketball or that they danced here. Parents: please take heed! Meanwhile, we need to grow, perhaps, rebuild our Sunday School program. We are in need of teachers committed to teaching our Faith to the next generation. Please give thought as to how, by teaching, you may make a difference, both in the lives of our children, as well as your own. If you are inclined to want to help teach, please contact Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org.



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Greek School News

See the article on page 2, welcoming our new head of Greek School. Meanwhile, Greek School resumes Saturday, September 29, 10 a.m. until noon.

Bestow on me, O Lord, strength to endure the fatigue of the day, and to bear my part in its events.

Guide Thou my will and teach me to pray, to believe, to hope, to suffer, to forgive, and to love.

*THE ELDERS, THAT IS, FOUNDERS AND ABBOTS, OF THE MONASTERY, SOME 80 MILES FROM MOSCOW, ARE COMMEMORATED ON OCTOBER 11.



Pangari Schedule

Serving on the pangari is a privilege, not only for Parish Council members, but for anyone who would like to be a part of the team of those who extend welcome to our services, especially for those who are visiting us from out of town and also people new to the community. The following teams, created so as to match up with their respective children, who will be serving in the altar on those days, consists of Parish Council members. Duties include the passing of the collection plate(s) and the seating of guests.

Team #1

Deno Konstantinidis
Philippos Athanasiades
Christopher Kyriacou
Dean Nicolacakis

Team #2 (Second Sunday Please)

Paul Sogotis
George Ambus
Mike Sarikakis

Team #3

Nicholas Rally
Nicholas Svetcoff
Chris Ramos

Team #4

Manoli Nuris
Vasiliki Moulas
George Gavros

Peter Manetas, Nick Kontonis, Michael Bagatelos, Gus Vellis also serve at the pangari, on a regular basis.

Philoptchos members and other members of the community are invited to participate, as well. Please speak to Paul Sogotis, our "chief of protocol," and indicate your willingness to be a part of the pangari team.



Serving in the Altar

Serving in the altar is a wonderful way for our young people to participate in the worship of our church, and learn more about our faith. For the present school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers have taken on the responsibility of coordinating the groups during services each week. We hope to add several more to their ranks in the coming years!

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group, who are above the age of 10, feel free to contact **Father Stephen** at fatherstephen@annunciation.org. Thank you also to **Nektarios McKnight** for guiding and instructing our altar servers each Sunday. As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions, feel free to let us know. Thanks!



Our altar schedule for August is as follows:

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

Our altar groups are as follow:

Group 1- Stelios Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis, Justin Perez, Christian Kleinekorte (Dimitri Kontonis- Group Leader)

Group 2- Christopher Apostolos Percia, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, Matheos Zarou (Niko Manetas- Group Leader)

Group 3- Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Steven Chiappari, Gianni Kefalas, Nicholas Shatara (Demetri Kontonis- Group Leader)

Group 4- Nathan Tesfai, Bobby Kontonis, Hari Manetas, Alexander Kasolas, Matthew Nuris (Jonas Tesfai- Group Leader)

Don't see your name here? Would you like to join us? We would like you to. Report for altar duty any Sunday morning, prior to 10:30 a.m., and Nektarios will make the appropriate arrangements. Meanwhile, it is also imperative that you attend Sunday School.

Interested in forming a group of girl altar servers, beyond the Myrrh Bearer's (Angels) program that we have during Holy Week and Pascha? Please contact Evangelia Raptis-Zarou, erz.raptiszarou@gmail.com

Sacraments and Services

Baptism

John Peter Papadakos, son of Peter John Papadakos and Ashley Jo Mayer, was baptized June 3. His Sponsors are Chrisoula and Niko Georgatos.

Na Mas Zisi! Long Life!

Weddings

The marriage of Victor Jude Delacruz and Melissa Monte Bezas was blessed on June 9. Their Sponsor is Christina Marie Bezas.

The marriage of George Louis Rangaves and Monica Maria Landaverde was blessed on June 16. Their Sponsor is Paul Chronopoulos.

The marriage of Nicholas Anthony Tsougarakis and Claire Elizabeth Simon was blessed on July 7. Their sponsor is Katherine Tsougarakis.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

Funerals

Vasiliki (Kiki) Marrott, who fell asleep in the Lord June 1, was buried June 7. She is survived by her son, Mark, and his children and by her daughter, Georgine.

Mary Pappas, who fell asleep in the Lord June 8, was buried June 16. She is survived by her son, Manuel, her daughters, Foula Vasilogiorgis and Angie Torre, and their children.

Aionia I Mnimi. Eternal Memory!

AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Paraklesis, 7 p.m.		Festival Cooking Paraklesis, 7 p.m.	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.	Transfiguration: Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	Festival Cooking Paraklesis, 7 p.m.	Festival Cooking	Festival Cooking Paraklesis, 7 p.m.		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Philoptochos, 12:30 p.m.	Paraklesis, 7 p.m.	Festival Cooking.	Dormition: Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10 a.m., Luncheon following		Festival Cooking Young Adult Paraklesis and Dinner, 6:30 p.m.	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Dance Practice Resumes; Parish Council 12:30 p.m. Festival Cooking	Gym Floor being Refinished	Festival Cooking Community Kitchen 6:30 p.m.	Festival Cooking	Festival Cooking	Festival Cooking	Gym Floor being Refinished Festival Cooking
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Festival Cooking		Festival Cooking	Beheading of St. John the Baptist: Liturgy 10 a.m. Festival Cooking			

The Great and Holy Council (2016) on the Mission of the Orthodox Church in Today's World: The conveyance of the Gospel's message according to the last commandment of Christ, Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matt 28:19) is the diachronic mission of the Church. This mission must be carried out not aggressively or by different forms of proselytism, but in love, humility and respect towards the identity of each person and the cultural particularity of each people. All the Orthodox Church have an obligation to contribute to this missionary endeavor.

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

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Father Stephen and Father Tom Paris recently visited Father Gregory and Khouria Mary Jane. Although Father Gregory speaks very little these days (remember his powerful sermons in recent years?), his eyes and his smile tell it all: Love the Lord God with all your heart and all your soul and all your might, and your neighbor as yourself. (Cf. MATTHEW 22:37, LUKE 10:27.)