



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD

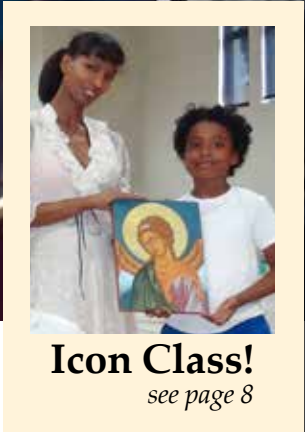


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AUGUST 2017



Members of the Philoptochos Board following the administration of the oath of office, which took place on Father's Day.



## Philoptochos Elects new board, officers; Takes Oath of Office, Donates \$70,000 more to the Building Fund

On Pentecost Sunday, the Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos met, elected a new Board for 2017-2019 and also elected new officers. The Board received its oath of office on Father's Day, June 18, at which time Pat Aleck presented an additional check to the Building Fund, on behalf of Philoptochos, in the amount of \$70,000., for a total of \$267,500. to the Capital Campaign, towards the new Cathedral. In the earlier campaign to rebuild the ancillary facilities, following the 1989 Earthquake, Philoptochos led the way by donating 1.25 million, thus being named "Cathedral Founder".

We congratulate Philoptochos for its ongoing support, not only of the Cathedral's building program, but of its many ministries, as well as the ministries of the Metropolis and the Archdiocese, ministries such as Kids 'n Cancer, the Bishop

Anthony Endowment Fund in support of our seminarians, cardiac programs, educational programs, St. Basil's Academy and others, just to name a few. The Philoptochos is inspired by faith and is an example to all. People with a heart get things done! And our Philoptochos has a huge heart!

The new officers and members of the Board are as follows: President: Janis Petrou, First Vice President: Kathy Dermitzakis, Second Vice President: Foula Vasilogiorgis, Recording Secretary: Annette Chiappari, Corresponding Secretary Grace Koutoulas, Treasurer: Mariam Arsinoos, Assistant Treasurer: Meena Vellis, Advisor: Patricia Aleck. The remaining members of the new Board are: Irene Kyriacou, Anastasia Dekaristos, Liberty Nuris, Terpsichore Varanis, Despina Poulos, Irene Poulakidas, Angie Leventis, Vicky Moulas, Vickie Holloway, Joanne Glafkides, and Vivian Curd.



## Looking Ahead to our Greek Food Festival, 2017

As announced, our Festival will take place on our grounds at 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Friday, September 22, Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24. Food preparation has begun and festival post cards, sponsorship forms, and festival book contract forms for placing ads have all gone out. By now, those who placed an ad in our 2016 Festival book have responded, in most cases renewing their ads. We are grateful for your support of the Festival Book, as it brings in HALF of the revenue of the Festival itself! (Thanks to you and to the efforts of Angie Leventis and Presbyteria Aliko.) We are also grateful for your sponsorship support, which helps underwrite the cost of the ingredients used for the food. Last year, within two weeks, all of the food items were underwritten! We applaud your spirit and generosity.

One new feature this year is that we expect to have full use of the courtyard, so people can mingle outdoors. The outdoor space encircles the new Cathedral. Eventually, we will have a variety of plants and shrubs around the perimeter. Eventually, as well, we will have an outdoor fountain, with water cascading over the central bowl, supported by "Theodosian" columns, and onto the mosaic floor, evocative of the Stobi baptistery. (We've written about the mosaics in previous issues of the Herald.)

Also, new this year is an intensified advertising campaign, including better utilization of our web site, Facebook, and street signs. Our goal is to reach 10,000 people. Meanwhile, we will be featuring our old favorites: gyros and lamb (again, thank you, George Gavros), loukoumades (thank you, Ambus family and Soteria), and glyka (thank you, Philoptochos ladies), even as we streamline our operations, thank you, Genie Mantzoros and Mauna Arnzen. And dance we will.

We hope to do that on the courtyard, where one of our tavernas will be stationed, thanks again, Nick Svetcoff. Thanks, as well, to the behind the scenes, hardworking volunteers—Manoli Pappas, who secures the permits, Maria Allen, who

coordinates the volunteers, Nick Balian, who designs the graphics, Larry, Joseph, and Tom Moulas, who take care of set-up and clean-up, and, of course, the executive committee of the Parish Council, who are this year's chairs, along with the incredible assistance of Tessie Calligeros, Deno Konstantinidis and Grace Koutoulas, and many more.

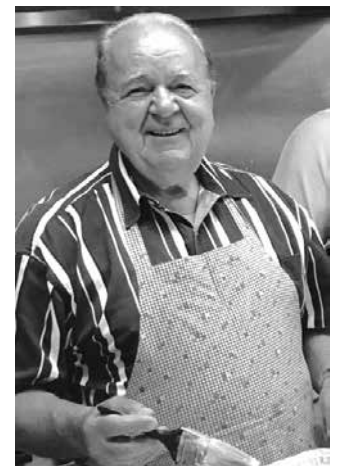
Elsewhere in the present Herald, there is a Food Festival Souvenir Book contract and donation form for your use. You may either use these or the ones that were sent in the mail, separately.



*Our ladies of Philoptochos are starting to prepare the pastries for the 2017 food festival. Volunteers are needed to help work the Pastry Booth. We welcome your help! To sign up, please call the church office at 415-864-8000 or during coffee hour on Sundays to sign up.*

## Haralambos Fragakis Named 2017 Father of the Year

Haralambos (Bobby) Fragakis was born on April 12, 1945 in the village of Fourni in Hania, Crete. He is the second youngest from a large family of eight kids. When he was sixteen years old, he decided to quit high school and began working on cargo ships so he can help his family.



When Bobby was twenty years old, he served in the Greek Army's Paratrooper Raider Forces, also known as "Dynamis Katadromon" for a little over two years. Even though he was in the army, he still continued to assist his family. As a paratrooper, the army would compensate him for each jump he accomplished. He risked his life twenty-two times.

In the meantime, Bobby's older siblings immigrated to Montreal, Canada for a better life. They invited him and their youngest sister to move there once Bobby completed his army services. Once he moved to Montreal, he learned the craft of baking Greek desserts, working by his brother-in-law's side in his bakery.

Bobby moved to Dayton, Ohio in 1973 and opened up his own bakery. Three years later, while still living in Ohio, he met the love of his life, Marianthe Loukoumides. They were married in July 1976 and had their first child, Androniki, in September 1977.

With his family, they went on vacation to San Francisco in 1977 to visit Bobby's brother, John Fragakis. They fell in love with San Francisco and, upon their return to Ohio, Bobby sold his bakery and they decided to start their new life in San Francisco. His brother and his Sibethero, Mike Nicolas, owned Bel Clift Market and employed Bobby. In May 1979, Bobby and Marianthe welcomed their second child, Natalia.

Ten years later, Bobby purchased Mike's half of the business when he retired. And a few times after that, his brother retired, and Bobby purchased his brother's share, making them full owners. After working hard for twenty years together, Bobby and Marianthe decided to sell the business and retire themselves.

Bobby is now enjoying his retirement with his wife and grandchildren—Basile, Haralambos, Christoforos, and Ioannis. He loves watching all types of sports, from his beloved Giants, Warriors and 49ers, all the way to wrestling and soccer. He is able to devote more time to our church and assist the Philoptochos with whatever assistance they need and also loves traveling to Greece as much as possible.



Haralambos (Bobby) Fragakis, our Father of the Year, shown here with Father Stephen, President Janis Petrou, Patricia Aleck (immediate Past President, and now Advisor to the Board); and Angie Leventis, who preceded Pat Aleck as President.



*We've come a long way since the roof membrane went up, "back" in 2016. Since then, the dome and half dome were covered with standing seam copper; the tile roofing was laid; and the vertical walls were covered in stucco. Yet, this is an amazing photograph, taken high above, showing the Cathedral complex in its entirety. A visually stunning photo. Photo by Adrain Mendoza.*

## Building Update: Keep Looking Up!



*Looking up towards the "belfry," one is able to see the steel bones of our magnificent new Cathedral. Even though the interior currently lacks finished walls, one is inspired by the sheer height and proportions of the interior, ever lifting us up towards heaven, capturing the essence of what the Rus are said to have remarked upon entering the Great Church in Constantinople, a thousand years ago, "We knew not whether we were in heaven or on earth..."*



Our bankers recently paid us a visit to view the progress of our building project. Shown, left to right, are: Dan McNely, Christa Aldrete (from 5 Star Bank), Tom Nuris, Jon Blackstad (from 5 Star Bank), Doug Chastain, Jim Macdonnell, and Philip Athanasiades.

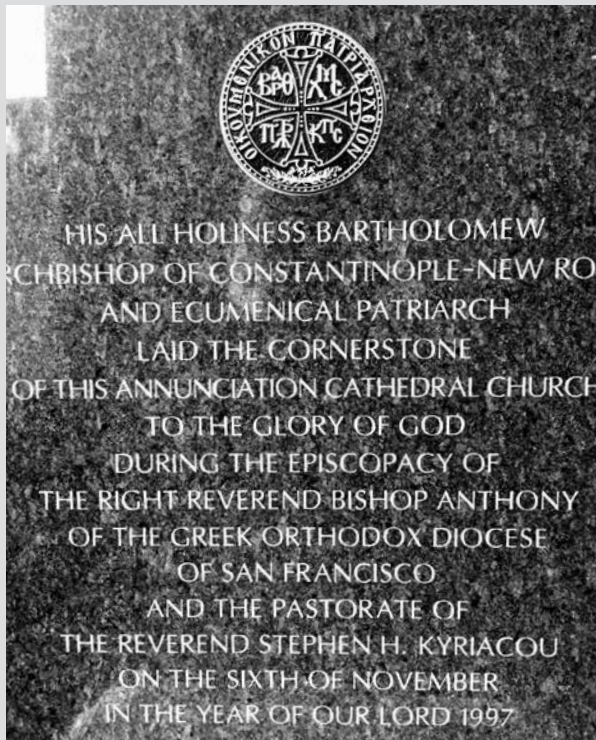


## Developing a Needs List: 2 Parishioners Step Up

Two parishioners, to date, have volunteered to join a committee to develop a needs list for the new Cathedral. The needs have been, for the most part, defined. They consist of all the appointments of the interior, as the light fixtures, the iconostasion, all the icons, the pangari, the icon stands, pulpit, bishops thrones, altar table, pews, and the like. All these are drawn in the construction set of the architectural drawings. In addition, things like chalices and other sacred vessels, altar covers, and altar servers' robes will be needed. The committee will consider all these items and create a brochure which will be distributed and which will offer numerous donor possibilities. As we begin work on the interior, we will be looking for donations for the specific items needed.

Our Architect has identified about 100 items, consisting of the above items, and also including doors, hanging lamps, baptismal fountains (for infants and also for adults), courtyard fountain mosaics, pews, pulpit, bishop's thrones, icon screen, soleas mosaic, sound system, organ, and on and on. Then, there is the iconography, including the main dome, the pendentives, the platytera, prothesis, diakonikon, iconostasion icons, narthex icons, occasional, portable icons, not to mention chalices, altar coverings, censers, and the like.

Wherever possible, the needs list will include photographs or renderings, along with a description of each item and the donation for each item. If you have already contributed to the Capital Campaign, and wish to donate a specific item, in addition, your name on the donor wall will reflect your TOTAL giving. If you have not yet contributed to the Capital Campaign, this will be an opportunity for you to be a part of this unique undertaking—the building of a church, and what a church! A Cathedral, poised to serve generations of faithful to come, in the heart of one of the most vibrant cities in the world. You will be remembered for your generosity by your children and their children—all who will come after you. More especially, you will be remembered by Him, whom we beseech to “remember the founders and benefactors of His holy Church.” If you would like to serve on the Needs Committee, please let Tom Nuris or Father Stephen know. The more involvement we have from our parishioners, the better. We are, after all, rebuilding the Cathedral, all together.



## Cornerstone to be Installed This Month For Sure

Back in 1997, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew broke ground for the new Cathedral and lay the cornerstone. Early in May, almost 20 years later, the construction workers will lay this stone on the exact spot where the ground breaking took place. Recall, the ground breaking took place just below the old courtyard, adjacent an evergreen. In the new configuration, the spot is on the courtyard, as one exits the north doors of the Cathedral.

## Parking: Just a Few Days to Go

Parking for up to 70 cars has been available in the lot behind the Cathedral, at 334 14th Street and on the street. Stewards of the Cathedral are charged only \$5 to park, by showing their discount card; the Cathedral picks up \$7 of the parking cost for Stewards.

This parking arrangement with the lot behind the Cathedral is about to end, as our own parking structure gets up and running. As previously noted, we intend to have a third-party operator run our lot, which will be available to the

public when not in use by the church. For this, a conditional use permit is required. We are waiting for approval from the City Planning Department, to enable us to proceed. This is the second of four steps we need to take before we are able to access the parking component. The third step is the installation of the elevator, which has, at last, occurred. We are now waiting for the appropriate inspection, the installation of gates and the finalization of a clear path of travel. Just a few days to go! Can't wait.

## I would like to give, but I don't have much to give.

Some people may be able to make a one-time gift. Others may not. Some people pledge an amount and then pay on their pledge over five years. It adds up. If you think about it, small amounts add up and become big amounts. Take a cup of coffee. Not the fancy stuff. A simple cup. Typically, a plain cup costs \$2. If you can put aside the equivalent of a cup of coffee every day, that comes to about \$730 a year. Do the math. In 5 years, that's \$3,650!

The chart below shows how, by thinking in terms of a per person/per day gift of a few dollars and cents, one can make a meaningful gift over a 5-year period. Consider how you may become a part of this awesome undertaking of rebuilding the Cathedral. By doing so, you may also save on your

taxes, as every cent given to the Building Fund is fully tax-deductible, to the extent allowed by law. And, every gift totaling \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on the donor wall which, will be placed in the new Cathedral.

We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss donating something other than cash, something like stocks or bonds, or if you would like to learn about other donor opportunities, or would like more information about making a per person/per day gift of a few dollars and cents, contact the Cathedral, [office@annunciation.org](mailto:office@annunciation.org), or speak with Father Stephen or Tom Nuris. The chart below illustrates how a few dollars and cents a day can add up to a meaningful gift.

AMOUNT	PER YEAR OVER 5 YEARS	PER MONTH OVER 5 YEARS	PER DAY OVER 5 YEARS	2 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)	3 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)	4 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)
\$100,000	\$20,000	\$1,666.00	\$54.80	\$27.40	\$18.26	\$13.70
\$50,000	\$10,000	\$833.00	\$27.40	\$13.70	\$9.13	\$6.85
\$30,000	\$6,000	\$500.00	\$16.43	\$8.22	\$5.48	\$4.10
\$25,000	\$5,000	\$416.00	\$13.70	\$6.85	\$4.56	\$3.42
\$20,000	\$4,000	\$333.33	\$10.95	\$5.49	\$3.65	\$2.74
\$15,000	\$3,000	\$250.00	\$8.22	\$4.11	\$2.74	\$2.05
\$10,000	\$2,000	\$166.66	\$5.47	\$2.75	\$1.82	\$1.36



## The Dormition of the Theotokos

One of the major feasts in the Orthodox Church has to do with the Theotokos, the Ever-Virgin Mary, Mother of our Lord. It is the feast of the Dormition, or her “falling asleep.” Some people refer to this event as the “assumption,” because they hold that Mary was bodily assumed into heaven, as our Lord was. Although Orthodox generally hold this view, it is not a dogma in the Orthodox Church. That is, it is not an “article of faith,” necessary for us to believe. Nevertheless, the event is an occasion for us to show our deep reverence for Mary, as we do on a number of other occasions: her nativity (September 8), her presentation to the Temple (November 21), her “purification, the entry of our Lord to the Temple (February 2), and her Annunciation (March 25). Special services are held on August 15, the feast of the Dormition. At the Cathedral, Orthros will be held at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10 a.m., and luncheon afterwards, offered by the Ladies Philoptochos. Meanwhile, the Paraklesis service will be offered, whereby we beseech the Mother of God for her intercession, that our Lord may protect us and that peace might prevail in the world. For the first time in years, we will celebrate the Paraklesis service in the evening, rather than in the morning, to enable working people to attend. The services will take place at 7 p.m. on Monday, August 1, Wednesday, August 3, Monday, August 7, Wednesday, August 9, and Friday, August 11. Inasmuch as the Dormition is a most solemn occasion, it is characterized by fasting. For us, fasting is accompanied by more frequent prayer and acts of philanthropy. In terms of food, we eat less, and avoid meat, dairy and fish.

Among Church fathers who have written about the Theotokos, St. Gregory Palamas figures prominently. Mary the Mother of God is the first volume in the series Sermons by Saint Gregory Palamas. We would like to bring the life and teaching of this remarkable 14th century saint (1296-1359) to your attention, and to encourage you to read the above-noted work.

Arranged thematically, the work consists of six sermons devoted to the Mother of God, including Homily 37, which St. Gregory preached on the Dormition. We reprint excerpts of this sermon below. Meanwhile, it was in 1334, while on Mount Athos, in his third year at the hermitage of Saint Sabas, which belongs to the Great Lavra, that Palamas experienced a vision in which he was encouraged to share the wisdom bestowed

upon him from on high. It seemed that he was carrying a vessel overflowing with milk, which subsequently turned into the finest of wines. The wine emitted such a strong fragrance that it brought great joy to his soul. A youth appeared and rebuked him for not sharing the wine with others and for allowing it to go to waste, for this wine, as he explained, was inexhaustible. The angel then warned Gregory, reminding him of the parable of the talents. As he later related to his friend and disciple Dorotheus, Palamas understood this vision to mean that the time would come when he would be called upon to transfer his teaching from the simple plane of the ethical (the milk) to the higher plane of the dogmatic word (the wine), which leads heavenward. Thus, at the age of about 38, Gregory began to write his Encomium for Saint Peter the Athonite, and, at about the same time, he also began to compose his homilies on the Theotokos.

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

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

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

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

“Of all those on earth she is the glory, of those in heaven the delight, the adornment of all creation. Source, fount and root of ineffable good things, she is the crown and perfection of all the saints.” (On the Dormition)

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## Icon Class Ends

As noted in previous issues of the Herald, a six-day class on iconography (the writing of icons) was conducted in June by Theodoros Papadopoulos, an iconographer from Greece (not the iconographer who will be writing the icons in the new Cathedral; this is George Kordis). Eleven students participated. Shown below are the students at their workstations, and also in a group photo, displaying the icons each one wrote.



## Sunday OIKOS Lecture Series News

We began our Lecture series in January this year with a talk by Dr. Katina Kostoulas, a clinical psychologist and member of our Parish Council, and head of OIKOS, on The Role of the Family in the Spiritual Development of Children. Meanwhile, we've met to finalize the program for the year. On Sunday March 12, immediately following church services, we heard from a group of educators, headed by Dr. Barbara Karvelis, on the group's experiences working with Syrian and other refugees in Lesbos Greece. The other members of team, two of whom were present and also spoke, include: Dr. Cecilia Wambach, Dr. Carolie Sly, Michele Cobble, and Lydia Stack. A few months ago, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited Lesbos and the refugee camps there, together with Pope Francis and Greek Archbishop Ieronymos. At the conclusion of what was a very moving presentation, Father Stephen expressed that, together with the Philoptochos and other parish groups, such as Young Adults and GOYA, the Cathedral would like to partner with a school on Lesbos, primarily to assist with the procurement of materials and other teaching resources that the schools there would like to have. We are very sensitive to the situation there, in view of the present economy of Greece, and we are not interested in engaging in politics. Just to be of help, as the local authorities decide.

Looking ahead, on June 11 Carl Andrew Wiener will speak to us on a topic of interest. Similarly, Dr. Steven Harris is scheduled to speak to us on October 8. We are also trying to secure Professor George Kordis, the iconographer who will write the icons for our new Cathedral prior to the end of the year, depending upon his travel schedule.

At the same time, we are hoping to self-publish the talks which will have been presented since the inception of the program. In addition to the above, we have had talks on parenting, the Theology of St. Maximos the Confessor, the Prayer Rope, as well as Byzantine Chanting. The lectures are about 20 to 30 minutes long with about 20 minutes for dialogue from the participants with the presenter and each other.

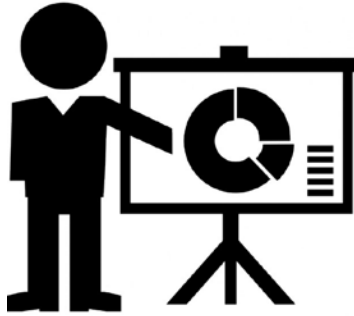
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## Introduction to Orthodoxy

### 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 weekly "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.

I invite all of you to encourage spouses and relatives to visit our class if you think they might want to join the Orthodox Church. But just as importantly, please try to identify new visitors who show an interest in our faith and encourage them to be a part of "Introduction to Orthodoxy." I know from personal experience that Annunciation Cathedral is uncommonly welcoming to outside visitors, and we must all do our part to help people interested in joining us.

"Introduction to Orthodoxy" meets in the upstairs conference room (near Fr. Stephen's office) on Sundays from 9 a.m. until the beginning of the Liturgy. Please direct any questions about the class to Alexander Kozak at [orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com](mailto:orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com).

## Cretan Convention Held in San Francisco – a Great Success!

The Pan Cretan Association of America held its 45th Annual convention in San Francisco June 30 through July 5. The last time this convention was held in San Francisco was 1974. Three of the events took place at the Annunciation Cathedral, namely, the welcome party on Friday, June 30, the Glendi on Saturday, July 1, and the farewell party, on Wednesday, July 5. The grand banquet took place on July 4, at the Hyatt Regency. There were a number of other exciting events, at varying venues, which made the convention both enjoyable and productive. John Monolakakis and Diane Kounalakis served as co-chairs of the event. We congratulate them and their hard-working committee a most successful convention.

## Social Justice Committee

**Dr. Lingas writes:** Hello everyone! My name is Elena O. Lingas, and I am heading up the new social justice committee. Before I discuss the committee, let me take a moment to introduce myself to those who don't know me. I am originally from Portland, Oregon, and many of you know members of my family—my brother, Alexander Lingas, founding director of *Cappella Romana*, and my parents Catherine and John Lingas. Graduate school brought me to the Bay Area, and I am currently a faculty member at a graduate public health program. I live in Berkeley with my husband and son.

One of the most striking things about Jesus' ministry on earth is how fundamentally radical it was: he focused his attention on those who are overlooked, forgotten, ignored. His message was one of love and concern for others, rather than of self-interest. Our parish is already taking many social justice-oriented actions, from the Community Kitchen providing nourishment and fellowship to fellow San Franciscans; to the Community Link, visiting isolated Orthodox Christians; and of course the many philanthropic activities of the Philoptochos. There are multiple ways that we can build upon these existing ministries as well as create new areas of focus. It is really up to the interests and enthusiasms of members of the parish to provide guidance.

As Father Stephen has previously mentioned, we have made connections with the Michael Pappas, Director of the San Francisco Interfaith Council. We are planning a meeting this summer with the Reverend Will Scott, Program Director for California Interfaith Power and Light (CIPL) (<http://www.interfaithpower.org/>). CIPL can help us think about "greening" our parish and its operations, in keeping with Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew's emphasis on protecting the environment. If you are interested in joining us for this meeting, please contact me at [lingas@berkeley.edu](mailto:lingas@berkeley.edu).

I hope that you will consider what you would like to see our parish doing to further put our faith into action. Please share your suggestions with myself ([lingas@berkeley.edu](mailto:lingas@berkeley.edu)) or with Fr. Stephen, [fatherstephen@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org).



## A Word About Stewardship: Continuing Good News

We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2017, so far, is shaping up to be the highest in recent history. Hopefully, this trend continues throughout 2017. As of June 1, 283 of our 350 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), have sent in their 2017 Stewardship pledge, which totals \$260,968 so far for the support of the Cathedral's ministries. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the Cathedral operating, the level of support is promising. The average pledge amount has increased over recent years and that is a testimony to your commitment. The average pledge amount for 2016 was \$845 (as compared to \$782 in 2013). As of this writing, it is \$922. With this level of support, it looks like we will exceed our Stewardship goal of \$300,000. We thank you for your continued support, your love for the Lord and His people, and your unwavering dedication to the Annunciation Cathedral. God bless you.

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2013	2015	2016	2017	LAST MONTH/THIS MONTH
Number of Pledges	322	351	343	283	265/283
Pledged Dollars	\$251,670	\$299,637	\$289,989	\$260,968	\$247,168/\$260,968
Outstanding Balances 2017				\$76,769	\$83,311/\$76,769
Average Pledge	\$782.00	\$854.00	\$845	\$922.00	\$933/\$922
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above				107	101/107**
Number of pledges between 601 and 999				25	25/25
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below				150	139/150
Number of individual 2016 pledges that have not pledged for 2017 to date				92	113/92***

Period ending May 31, 2017

\*\*38% of Total Pledges

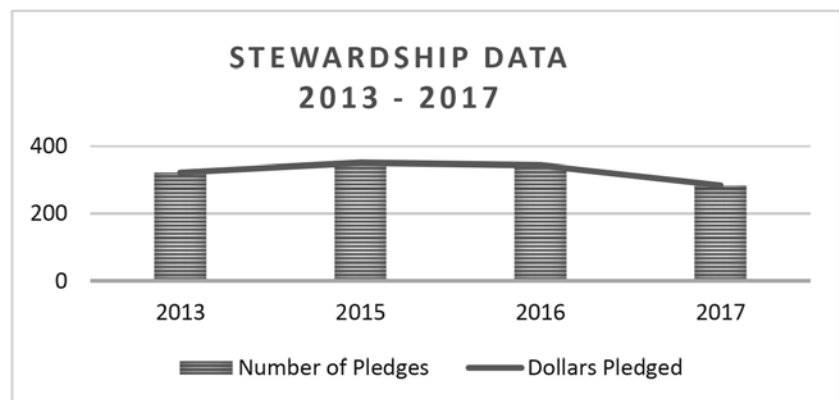
\*\*\* - letters sent seem to have helped

### % Change TY/LY to Date

Number of Pledges	6%
Pledged Dollars	13.0%
Average Pledge	-1.0%

**Unique 2017 Pledges :**  
(no pledge 2013 - 2016)

**NEW Unique Pledges**  
Average for NEW \$ 145.00



## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



As always, Philoptochos is in the forefront of parish activity. During the summer, Philoptochos helps organize the Festival cooking schedule and is in charge of baking, assembling and selling all the pastries, which are a big hit throughout the three-day event. Once again, the Festival will take place Friday, September 22, Saturday, September 23 and Sunday, September 24. Shown below are the new president, Janis Petrou, and three of her hard-working team members planning the Festival baking—Soso Dekaristos, Rose Sogotis, and Vasiliki Moulas.



*Following the administration of the oath of office, members of the Philoptochos Board venerate the Holy Gospel Book. The Philoptochos will sponsor the luncheon which will take place on Tuesday, August 15, following the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the Feast of the Dormition.*

## So Long to Sterne School

It's hard to believe it's been five years since Sterne School began operating a high school at the Cathedral. These have been wonderful years, both for the Cathedral and for Sterne. During this time, the school has grown, perhaps, fivefold. It was always the School's dream to combine the high school and the primary school, which was located in Pacific Heights, at a single campus. This dream was realized when the School was able to locate a building which met their needs. The building is located in the financial district. Accordingly, the School has moved. We wish Sterne every success. Suffice it to say, we are actively looking for another school to occupy our classroom space, on a shared basis, as was the case with Sterne School and, earlier, SF Waldorf High School. Waldorf continues to use our gym space, prior to our own evening and weekend use. To date, five schools have inquired about using our classroom space. Meanwhile, following the move, the classrooms used by Sterne School will be repainted and refurbished with our own furniture until such time as the appropriate school is found to occupy them.

## 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 (Stelios in Altar)  
Dean Nicolacakis

### Team #2 (Second Sunday Please)

Paul Sogotis (Panayioti & Yianni in Altar)  
George Ambus (Christopher in Altar)  
Katina Kostoulas

### Team #3

Nicholas Rally (Demetri in Altar)  
Nicholas Svetcoff  
Chris Ramos

### Team #4

Manoli Nuris (Mathew in Altar)  
Vasiliki Moulas  
George Gavros

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

Philoptochos 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.

# 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. Won't you consider volunteering once in a while? All you have to do is show up. By the way, there's no age limit. We have teenagers volunteering and we have people "forever young" volunteering. What if the entire world took notice and tried a little bit of outreach: the world would become a better place. How about it? See you August 15?



*Young Adults leading our Community Kitchen*



*Some of our 50 guests at our most recent Community Kitchen.*



*Thank you to those who come to eat, thus allowing us to put into practice what we preach.*



*Thanks to those who prepared this food, those who serve it.*

## YOUTH NEWS



Shown with Father Stephen: Tom Nuris and Nick Kontonis, Coaches, presenting the OYAA High School Championship Trophy. Our High School senior team, once again, won the OYAA championship for 2017. We are very proud of our youth, their parents, and those who mentor them.



## Dance Group News

2018 FDF to take Place in San Francisco!

Please join us at the 42nd annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival (FDF), which will take place January 11-14, 2018 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco, CA!

Traditionally held over President's Day Weekend in February, FDF will be celebrated over Martin Luther King Jr. weekend to acknowledge Great Lent, which begins February 19th, 2018.

### Hotel Room Reservation Information

A special FDF room rate of \$195 per night has been secured for FDF participants.

**\*\*PLEASE NOTE\*\*** When making hotel reservations under the FDF room block, the hotel will charge a non-refundable deposit of one night's room rate PER ROOM at the time of booking. This is required by the hotel – you will be charged the amount of your first night hotel room. No exceptions.

To reserve a hotel room with the FDF room rate, go to: [www.yourfdf.org](http://www.yourfdf.org)

One third of parishes that participate in FDF are located near the Bay Area. Additionally, San Francisco is home to the Metropolis of San Francisco, which has supported FDF since 1976. We are excited to bring this event to back to Northern California, an area so connected to the FDF community!

We look forward to seeing you in San Francisco!

FDF website [www.yourfdf.org](http://www.yourfdf.org)

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FolkDanceFestival/>

Instagram and Twitter @yourfdf

Snapchat @Your\_FDF

We are very proud of our 4 groups, consisting of some 70 dancers. This year, our Young Adults have expressed an interest in forming an adult group, making for a total of 5 groups and almost 100 dancers. We will resume dance practice, for the first 4 groups, on August 20. A follow-up meeting of the dance group board will take place August 24. It's important that we begin practicing early, in view of the stepped-up date of FDF in 2018: more than a month earlier than normal! Therefore, we ask for the cooperation of our dancers and their parents, as we will be practicing extra days in December this year, as well as in January of 2018.

Our program begins with five year olds. We invite you to enroll your children. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at [karthia808@yahoo.com](mailto:karthia808@yahoo.com) for more information. Meanwhile, our 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 2017

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis and Eleni Taptelis

**Thisavri:** 5th-7th grade in Fall 2017

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

**Spithes:** 8th -12th grade in Fall 2017

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

**Adult Group in the Making**

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## Sunday School News

*"Of all holy works, the education  
of children is the most holy."  
~Saint Theophan the Recluse*

For the upcoming School year, Brittany Dhawan, our current music teacher, is now going to be the director. She is very much looking forward to an invigorated new year as we take up the vital ministry of teaching our faith to the children and youth of the parish. The music class will also continue this upcoming year with new assistance from our own Evan Boukidis, and with new tools. We are still looking for new volunteers to help with special occasions in Sunday School throughout the year and for new teachers.

As we look forward to the start of the new Sunday School year for 2017-2018, which will start on September 10th, I would like to encourage the parents and grandparents that bring their children to Sunday School to set a new goal this year to come as often as possible. To be able to fully use the one hour a week of the classes we would like to encourage the children to arrive by 10:30.

We had a parent - teacher meeting on May 21st discussing our new attendance policy for Sunday School, and requested feedback about changing the time slot of Sunday School. Since many of the parents were not able to make the May meeting we will be holding a second meeting on August 27th. On that Sunday we will start the enrollment of the children to start to organize the classes and teachers for the upcoming year. Sunday school will not be in session the weekend of the Festival, September 22-24. Though we are also not in session for Sunday School during the summer, we encourage all parents to bring their children to liturgy to worship together.

- The first day of the 2017-2018 Sunday School Year is September 10
- August 27th - Cleaning Day with the Teachers
- September 10th - Sunday School Start
- September 24th - No Sunday School - Festival 22-24
- October 22 - Unicef Halloween Boxes distributed

- October 29 - Unicef Halloween Boxes received / counted
- December 17th - Christmas Pageant
- March 25th – Feast of the Annunciation - Godparents Sunday - Godparents come to Sunday School with children
- April 1st - Palm Sunday
- April 6th - TGI Pascha
- April 8th - Pascha
- June 3rd - End of School Year

'Like'  
Annunciation  
Cathedral Sunday  
School!



## Greek School News

The 2016-2017 school year came to an end on Saturday, June 10. Anthi Janssens, head our Greek School, says it was a great year. She thanks our incredibly talented teachers for their commitment and dedication to our school and to our students. Our 2017-2018 school year begins on Saturday, September 30, at 10 a.m. We look forward to welcoming back our returning families as well as meeting new families. If you are interested in having your child learn Greek, please e mail Anthi at [anthigj@gmail.com](mailto:anthigj@gmail.com) or call her at 415 254-5458. You may also complete the form below and mail or take it to the Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco.

## GOYA BBQ - August 12

Hi Everyone!...I hope your summers are all going well. I realized the GOYA BBQ is right around the corner and I won't be coming back from over a month of fun and work travels until August 5th. To get us organized, I've created a form to get a sense of numbers.

As a reminder, we will have the BBQ/Game day August 12th in Washington Park in Burlingame at 1pm.

**RSVP here:** <https://goo.gl/forms/60RHdg24Gw8dUoch3>

I hope to see everyone there!  
*Matia*

## 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 6	- Group 1
August 13	- Group 2
August 15	- Open
August 20	- Group 3
August 28	- 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.

Proud to serve in the altar.

## Sacraments

### Wedding

The marriage of Robert Eugene Lee III and Eleni Victoria Kalligeros was blessed on June 24. Their Sponsor is Stefani Maragoudakis.

*Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!*

### Funerals

Mary Christina Tsougarakis, who fell asleep in the Lord on June 9, was buried June 14. She is survived by her daughter, Perri, and her son, Lucas, daughter-in-law Roxana and her children, Nicholas and Katherine, and her sister, Stamatia, and nieces and a nephew.

George Bountouvas, who fell asleep in the Lord on June 10, was buried June 16. He is survived by his wife, Effie, their daughters, Marianthi Angelopoulos and Katina Bountouvas, and Marianthi's husband, Christos, and their children, Vasilis and George.

Kerasa Tsokas, who fell asleep on June 27, was buried June 30. She is survived by her son, Demetri, his wife Georgia and their children, Kerasa and George.

*Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!*

### Condolences

Condolences are offered to the family of Ourania Giannakaras, who fell asleep in the Lord on June 26.

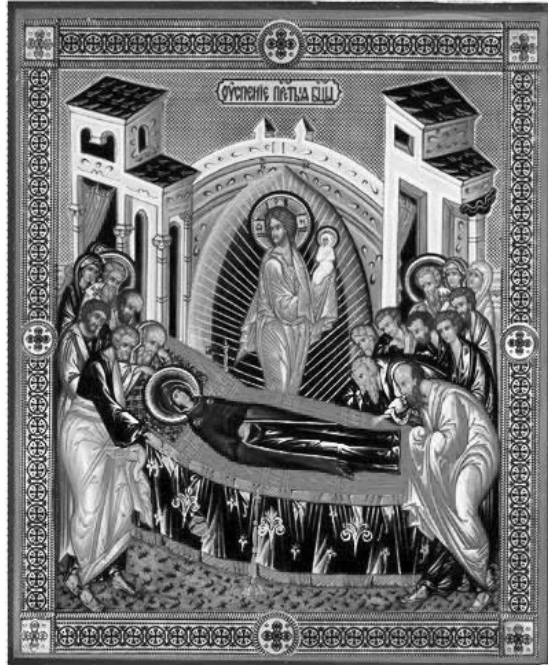
Condolences are offered to Nan Cusulos and her family on the falling asleep of her sister Olga Andrews.

Condolences are offered to Melina Navarette on the recent falling asleep of her father.

*Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!*

# AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		Paraklesis 7 pm	Food Festival Cooking: KOURABIEDES 9:00am	Paraklesis 7 pm		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orthros 9 am; Divine Liturgy 10:30 am TRANSFIGURA- TION; Scheduling Meeting 12 pm	Paraklesis 7 pm		Paraklesis 7 pm		Paraklesis 7 pm	Food Festival Cooking: MELOMAK- ARONA 9:00am GOYA BBQ 1:00 pm
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros 9 am; Divine Liturgy 10:30 am		DORMITION; Orthros, 9 am, Liturgy, 10am Luncheon, 12 pm Community Kitchen, 6:30 pm			Parish Youth Directors Conference	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros 9 am; Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Dance Practice Resumes, 12:30 pm; Parish Council, 12:30 pm Food Festival Cooking: TIROPITES 11:00am	Food Festival Cooking: TIROPITES 11:00am			Dance Board 7 pm		
27	28	29	30	31		
Orthros 9 am; Divine Liturgy 10:30 am	Sunday School Cleaning Day 9 am	Beheading of John the Baptist; Liturgy 10 am		Food Festival Cooking: {OPEN} 9:00am		



CELEBRATING THE DORMITION OF OUR MOST HOLY LADY  
THE THEOTOKOS

COME JOIN THE PHILOPTOCHOS LADIES OF THE  
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL  
SAN FRANCISCO

FOR A PANEGYRI LUNCHEON  
FOLLOWING THE DIVINE LITURGY  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 15, 2017

\$20.00 DONATION

DIVINE LITURGY 10:00AM



## FESTIVAL 2017 COOKING SCHEDULE • August 2, 2017

(Please note: Cooking schedule subject to change)

Wednesday, Aug 2nd	<b>KOURAMBIEDES</b> CHAIRPERSON: Philoptochos	9:00 am
Saturday, Aug 12th	<b>MELOMAKARONA</b> CHAIRPERSON: Philoptochos	9:00 am
Sunday, Aug 20th & Monday, Aug 21st (if necessary)	<b>TIROPITES</b> CHAIRPERSON: Tessie Calligeros	11:00 am
Monday, Aug 28th – Thursday, Aug 31st	<b>{OPEN}</b> CHAIRPERSON: {OPEN}	9:00 am.
Saturday, Sept 2nd	<b>SYRUP{S}</b> CHAIRPERSON: Bobby F, Melina N, & Philoptochos	9:00 am
Tuesday, Sept 5th	<b>BAKLAVA</b> CHAIRPERSON: Bobby F, Soso D, & Philoptochos	9:00 am
Thursday, Sept 7th	<b>GALATBOUREKO</b> CHAIRPERSON: Bobby F, Soso D	9:00 am
Saturday, Sept 9th Part I	<b>DOLMADES</b> CHAIRPERSON, Rose Sogotis	9:00 am
Sunday, Sept 10th Part II	<b>DOLMADES</b> CHAIRPERSON: Rose Sogotis	12:00 pm
Tuesday & Wednesday, Sept 12th & 13th	<b>BELL PEPPERS</b> CHAIRPERSON: Ted Leventis	9:00 am
Monday, Sept 18th	<b>BAKLAVA BAKING</b> CHAIRPERSON: Philoptochos	9:00 am
Tuesday, Sept 19th	<b>CHICKEN MARINADE</b> CHAIRPERSON: Rose Sogotis	12:00 pm
Wednesday, Sept 20th	<b>GALATBOUREKO BAKING</b> CHAIRPERSON: {Open}	9:00 am
Wednesday, Sept 20th	<b>RIZOGALO</b> CHAIRPERSON: Rose Sogotis	9:00 am



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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 **\$ 75**

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

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Please Write your Ad, Message or Memorial in this area, or send your Artwork to email: [aleventis3@comcast.net](mailto: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 \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks payable to: ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL PROGRAM BOOK 2017

245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Phone: 415 864-8000 Fax: 415 431-5860 [www.annunciation.org](http://www.annunciation.org) email: [festival@annunciation.org](mailto:festival@annunciation.org)



## Donation Form

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**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	\$500
<input type="checkbox"/> Propane	\$100	<input type="checkbox"/> Moussaka	\$500
<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	\$250	<input type="checkbox"/> Dolmades	\$800
<input type="checkbox"/> Feta Cheese	\$300	<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

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