



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

DECEMBER 2017

John Basil Vlahos August 25, 1935 - October 29, 2017

The Cathedral mourns the passing of John Basil Vlahos, husband of Cynthia Vlahos, brother of our parishioner, George Vlahos, as well as of Tasia Misthos and Eugene Vlahos, and father of Teitsa, Basil, Nicholas, Cassandra, and Michael. Google John Basil Vlahos, and you will find a litany of accomplishments during his 82 years. And these should be noted and celebrated. You will also see that he served as President of the Annunciation Cathedral and was considered by many who worked with him over the years, as the Cathedral's "brightest star," not only for his breadth of knowledge (one could discuss anything with John, from the law, to religion, to Messinian family connections, to theology and iconography), but for his leading the way, in so many instances, for this community, whether promulgating its by-laws, incorporating its originally four land parcels into one, giving impetus to its initial food festivals, singing God's glory in its choir, supporting its efforts to rebuild the Cathedral



with a substantial gift, which he gave unassumingly, without fanfare. No doubt, in heaven, John will be interceding in the Cathedral's behalf, overseeing the course of construction of the building, and the installation of its iconography and its various appointments, down to the chalices which will be utilized to contain the Holy Gifts, offered by the faithful, to God, and, in turn, received by us as "Body and Blood of Christ." In recognition of his incredible stewardship, the mural of Constantinople, which will be painted along the large expanse of wall, behind the new sanctuary, will be dedicated to John. (The graphic, along with the article, has appeared in past issues of the Herald; it is being reprinted in this issue, for your perusal.) This is a most fitting gesture,

since, as Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, John was an indefatigable champion of its historic rights, and, dare we say, continues to be, as the finest among us, who now rests among His saints. Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

Building Update: In the Home Stretch for the Exterior!

Getting there and, quite honestly, we can't wait for it to finish. However, with the current building boom in San Francisco, the Contractor has been experiencing difficulty getting subs to do the work. We're in the home stretch, though, given the challenges of getting workers and coming up with the money to pay our contractor, we are, nevertheless, nearing completion of the exterior. We are also about a month away from receiving a Conditional Use Permit to enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. As for the interior: we hope to begin the upper interior wall installation going by the end of the year. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. As noted, some \$4 million is still needed to complete and furnish the interior of the Cathedral. To date, we've had a successful capital campaign, which raised some \$6 million. Of this, we have only about \$600,000 in outstanding pledges. As we collect these pledges, we will be able to



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Phil Economopoulos named Archon

On October 30, Phil Economopoulos, a steward, member of the Annunciation Cathedral, was installed as Archon of the Ecumenical Patriarchate. Archons constitute the Order of St. Andrew, which is headquartered in New York. The Order defends the interests of the Mother Church, both in this country and abroad. A native of New Hampshire, Phil and his wife, Nancy have two children, John and Jason. They reside in Montara. Phil is senior vice president of investments, initially, of his own company and, now, in concert with Raymond James, and has advised the Cathedral and the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos on investment matters. He assists the Metropolis, as well. A low-key kind of individual, Phil is motivated by his strong faith, and his willingness to work (often, behind the scenes), to strengthen the Church. The Cathedral congratulates Phil on this singular honor. Axios!

Taken from the Prophecy of Isaiah, who foretold the Virgin Birth:

10. The Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 11. Ask a sign of the Lord your God. Let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. 12. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.

from page 1

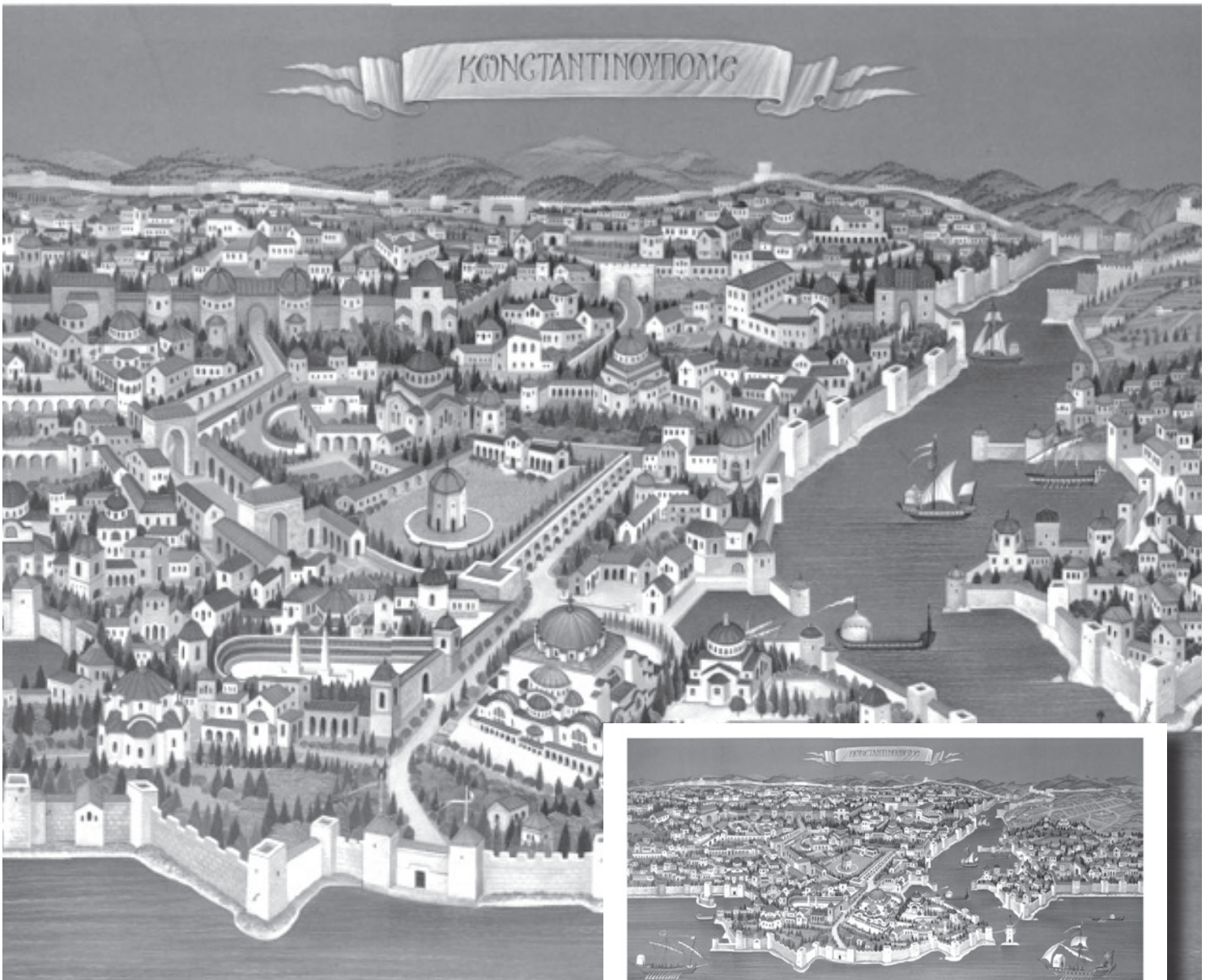
meet our current obligations and continue the work so as to complete our magnificent, future house of worship. Meanwhile, those who have made gifts or who have pledged and who have completed their pledges, are invited to consider making an additional gift. This will be helpful to the project. At the same time, it will benefit them, inasmuch as all gifts are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and tax deductions may be taken for gifts made in calendar year 2017. If you wish to discuss this with someone, we invite you to speak with Tom Nuris, our Capital Campaign Committee Chair, or Father Stephen, our Dean: fatherstephen@annunciation.org,



Part of the "team," preparing for December 3: Grace, Liberty, Meena and Vicki, shown making their list and "checking it twice." To the right, Liberty Nuris,, Tom Moulas, Meena and Tom Nuris prepare to hang special draperies for the occasion. They hope to see everyone there.

Honoring Patricia Aleck December 3

It will be a celebration of JOY. Billed as a Christmas Celebration and Luncheon, the event, for which invitations have been mailed, to Cathedral stewards and friends, to Philoptochos members and friends, and beyond, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos, will honor immediate past Philoptochos president Patricia Aleck. It will take place on Sunday, December 3, following the Divine Liturgy, in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall, and will feature a champagne reception, festive luncheon, honoree presentation, and entertainment. The donation is \$40 per person (\$10 for young children), and will benefit the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund and the Cathedral's ministries, notably its youth (including dance) ministries. The hall will be decorated to reflect a winter wonderland. Centerpieces will be available for purchase at the conclusion of the event. You won't want to miss it. We encourage you to complete and return the reservation cards which accompanied the invitations, as soon as possible, as space is limited. We hope to accommodate everyone who comes, both to honor Pat for her lifetime of gracious leadership, and to support the Cathedral's rebuilding efforts.

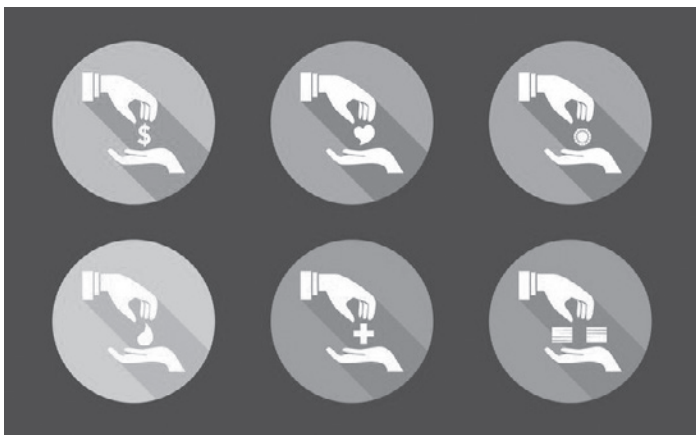


A Mural on the Back Wall

A Mural on the Back Wall: Dedicated to the Life's Work of John Basil Vlahos, 1935-2017

A mural on the Stevenson Street wall, shown above, got considerable attention when it was printed in the last couple of issues of the Herald. People actually loved it. We noted how the purpose of doing a mural was to thwart graffiti, which has become a perennial problem along Stevenson Street. You no sooner paint over the graffiti and, almost overnight, it reappears. We also noted how in other parts of the City and, notably, in the Mission, the issue is being addressed by painting murals. So much so that they attract tourists, who come and admire them, photograph them, and share them on Facebook and other social media outlets. We shared how Peter Misthos, nephew of the late John Basil Vlahos, will engage the artists and oversee the work. We're very excited. The work will cost about \$30,000. Inasmuch as John Basil Vlahos, Past President

of the Cathedral, recently fell asleep in the Lord, the mural, some 90 feet wide by 12 feet tall, will be rendered in gratitude to him for his years of service to the Cathedral. At the same time, the mural will be making a significant artistic contribution to the City of San Francisco, thus reflecting John's legacy. As a native son, John loved San Francisco. As a faithful Greek Orthodox Steward and as Archon Nomophylax of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, which is headquartered in Constantinople, John championed its rights, even as he was inspired by and promoted its iconographic legacy. The mural shows City of Constantinople as it appeared some centuries ago—the City where our Mother Church, the Ecumenical Patriarchate, is located. We expect to begin the mural as soon as the stucco has been applied to the wall, i.e. within the next few weeks.



(Once Again) Will You Consider Donating \$1 Million?

Back when Father Scott was helping us raise money to begin rebuilding the Cathedral, at one of the meetings where we were discussing holding a gala-type event, we recall his saying:

“If we can get someone to donate \$1 million, that would electrify the community.” He used these very words. Since then, we worked in earnest to raise the money to rebuild, and we did, in fact, raise that single donation of \$1 million. To be precise, it was over \$1 million. It came from the late Katherine Costopoulos. May God rest her soul, as we remember her among the “Founders and Benefactors of this Holy Church.” The time is now come when we are poised to receive another single gift in the amount of \$1 million (or more), towards the rebuilding of the Cathedral. We’ve been cultivating a few individuals and can only pray that this will come about. For certain, there are a number of people in the Greek Orthodox community who are in a position to make this kind of gift, if they are so inclined. The project itself is compelling. First, it’s about the rebuilding of this Metropolis’ Cathedral church. But, it’s also about “making firm” our presence as a faith community and as a cultural community, in the heart of the City of San Francisco. At a time when mega buildings are rising, at an unprecedented rate, making an important contribution to the City’s skyline. At a time when the vibrancy of youth is re-energizing the City’s neighborhoods. At a time when an optimism about the future abounds (despite the many challenges facing our society). Precisely at this time, God is enabling a church to be built, to be a beacon of hope and reconciliation. And it’s your church! Your faith: the gathering of the nations of the earth into one household, where “Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 3:11). So, again, and again, the question: will you consider donating \$1 million?

13. Then Isaiah said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? 14. Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, a Virgin is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. 15. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. 16 For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Or (Once Again) Lending the Cathedral \$1 Million?

The adjacent paragraph suggests there are people in the Greek Orthodox community who are in a position of making a significant monetary contribution towards the rebuilding of the Cathedral. Recently, a suggestion was made that 4 to 6 people could help bring the project to a speedy conclusion by lending the Cathedral \$1 million each—in-interest free. They will be paid back of course. Meanwhile, they would be helping the Cathedral save some \$22,000 a month, which it is paying the Bank, in interest alone! Give this some prayerful thought. It could be a win-win for all. Those who may wish to consider this kind of assistance are invited to discuss this first with their financial planners and advisors. We invite your response.



Making Good on/Paying Off Your Building Fund Pledge

Our Capital Campaign was undertaken in good faith, for the purpose of rebuilding the Cathedral. At the time, the Cathedral, together with its underground parking component, was estimated to cost a total \$14 million, about \$10.9 for the exterior and about \$3.1 for the interior. And, we approached our parishioners and friends, and you responded generously. Some of you made a one-time payment; others made a 5-year pledge. Most of those who made a 5-year pledge have made good on your pledge and we thank you. This has enabled us to break ground and get to the point where we are now. Yes, there have been a few glitches

along the way, like when lead was found in the soil, like when it was discovered the neighboring property slightly encroached on ours. But, we overcame these delays. And then there were cost overruns. And the monthly interest from the Bank, to the tune of \$22,000. And the annual balloon payment, to the tune of \$400,000. (We barely made it this year, but we were able to pay it.) Now, our Capital Campaign fund is down to its last \$100,000 and here we have a total of about \$600,000 outstanding on Capital Campaign pledges. It's really a no-brainer. Our Parish Council has been charged with the responsibility of reaching out to those with outstanding balances, asking them to consider accelerating their payments, if possible, or, in the case of those whose payments have fallen behind, to make good on their pledges. This will enable us to go on in earnest to complete the outside of the building, so that we can utilize the courtyard, and also begin using the parking component. By now, those with outstanding pledges have been contacted by a member of the Parish. We thank you for the courtesy you afforded them and also for making arrangements to complete your gift.



A Parish Home?

Father Stephen (God bless him) has been with us for over 30 years. At 71 years young, he's going strong and trying his best to shepherd our community. However, the day is going to come when he can no longer do this and we have to begin thinking about who will come after him. What priest will be able to afford to come to San Francisco and buy a house? Or what kind of rent does the community have to pay for a future priest and his family? Which is why it's time to start thinking about acquiring a parish house, that is, a home owned by the parish, where the next priest can reside. Other, neighboring churches have acquired or have been gifted homes for their priest. It may be there are Annunciation parishioners who, perhaps, own more than one home or parishioners who own the home where they live but who have no one to leave their home, and who would like to consider donating a home to the church for this purpose. Obviously, this is a very sensitive matter. However, it is a matter we should be giving thought to. If you are a parishioner or a friend of the Cathedral and are inclined to want to gift a home to the Cathedral, to be owned by the Cathedral and to serve as residence for a future priest, we invite you to speak confidentially with Father Stephen.

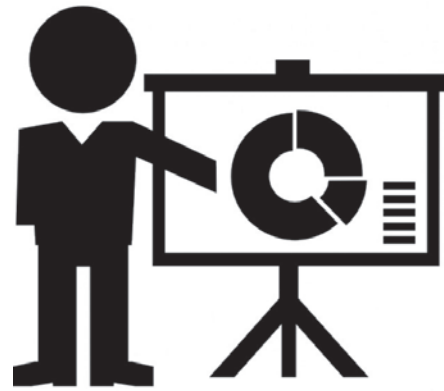


Parking: Just a Few Days to Go

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. We had noted the hearing for this will take place the first week in October or November. However, the Planning Department informed us, as this issue of the Herald was going to press, that the hearing will, in fact, take place on December 12. Please pray that the hearing goes well. 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 inspection of the elevator, which has, at last, has been installed and finalization of a clear path of travel, enabling people who park in the lot to surface, by elevator or by stairs, into the lobby and to proceed either to the offices, classrooms and community center via the covered archway, or through the gate and onto Valencia Street .

17. The Lord will bring on you and on your people and on your ancestral house such days as have not come since the day that Ephraim departed from Judah—the king of Assyria. 18. On that day the Lord will whistle for the fly that is at the sources of the streams of Egypt, and for the bee that is in the land of Assyria. 19. And they will all come and settle in the steep ravines, and in the clefts of the rocks, and on all the thorn-bushes, and on all the pastures.



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. In March, 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. 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.

Then, on June 11 Carl Andrew Wiener read poems which he had composed, poems entitled "For Euripides," "Of the Diktean Cave," "On the Acropolis, Looking South," and "Poor Thucydides," to name a few. On September 9, we will hear from Alexander Kozak, on the topic of "holy fools" (yes, there is such a topic!). The actual title for his talk is "Holy Fools in the Byzantine Empire." On October 8, Dr. Steven Harris was our guest speaker. A parishioner at the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Serbian Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA, Dr. Harris holds a PhD in Psychology from U.S. International University (now Alliant International University) in San Diego. The title of his doctoral dissertation is "A Psychophysiological Investigation of Two Subtypes of Attention Deficit Disorders." Dr. Harris spoke to us on Paradise, Lost and Found, citing the Church fathers as well as notable authorities in the world of psychology and psychiatry.

Moving ahead, we are trying to secure Professor George Kordis, the iconographer who will write the icons for our new Cathedral, depending upon his travel schedule. Professor Kordis is headquartered in Athens and has written icons throughout the United States, in Greece, and in the Middle East.

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 form the participants with the presenter and each other. They are meant to be informative, engaging and inspiring.

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 December, the class will meet on December 3 and December 10. The class meets in the conference room on the second floor, beginning at 9 a.m.

What's the Big Deal About Stewardship?

Well, it is a big deal because this is how we support the Church. We make an annual pledge to support the Church's programs and ministries. We do so in accordance with our means. We do so commensurate with our faith. If we believe in the work of the Church, we give. If we don't, we don't give, or we give nominally. 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. Which means the faith of our parishioners is strong, that you want to see the Cathedral strong and thriving. Hopefully, this trend continues throughout 2017. As of November, 318 of our 350 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), have sent in their 2017 Stewardship pledge, which totals \$296,323, 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 \$932. 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	2014	2015	2016	2017	LAST MONTH/THIS MONTH
Number of Pledges	322	306	351	343	318	312/318
Pledged Dollars	\$251,670	\$235,001	\$299,637	\$289,989	\$296,323	\$289,953/\$296,323
Outstanding Balances 2017					\$40,955	\$48,200/\$40,955
Average Pledge	\$782.00	\$768.00	\$854.00	\$845	\$932.00	\$929/\$932
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above					124	117/124**
Number of pledges between 601 and 999					30	31/30
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below					162	164/162
Number of individual 2016 pledges that have not pledged for 2017 to date					65	69/65

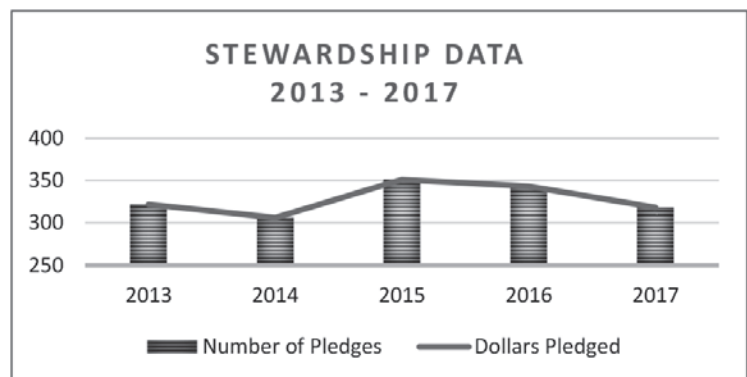
Period ending Oct 31, 2017

**39% of Total Pledges

% Change TY/LY to Date

Number of Pledges	-5%
Pledged Dollars	4.0%
Average Pledge	9.0%

Unique 2017 Pledges :
(no pledge 2013 - 2016)



F **ITH** Keeping the 2018 Stewardship Campaign

Cathedral Gears Up for 2018 Stewardship Campaign

“Gearing up” may be a little strong. But, a campaign it is. In other words, we are going out not only to get the commitment for 2018 of those who are regularly supporting members, but to grow our stewardship base. To share the theme of our 2018 campaign, which is taken from St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians (3:23), where he says “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.” Stewardship is not just monetary support. Stewardship is participation in the Lord’s work! That’s the difference. If we fail, it’s because we reduce stewardship to giving money, just as one would to any organization. But, if we succeed, it’s because we communicate the Gospel message, that, whatever we do, we do it with all our heart, as working for the Lord.

Your 2018 stewardship packets were mailed out in mid-November. Here’s what we would like you to do: 1. We would like you to read through the material, and THEN fill out and return the card, pledging whatever you can for 2018 (the amount is not important; what is important is that whatever you pledge, it is from your heart: it reflects what the Church means to you). Then, 2. We would like to you encourage your children (if they are 18 or over), as well as your relatives and friends, to ALSO read through the materials and make THEIR OWN Stewardship pledge to support the work of the Church. 3. Finally, bring the completed cards with you on Sunday, December 3, and deposit them in the collection basket or, if you prefer, mail them in. We note, as of this writing, that nearly 100 Stewardship pledges for 2018 have already come in. This is a testimony to your faith and your determination to see the Cathedral succeed in “teaching aright the Word of His Truth,” as the Divine Liturgy puts it. That is, to serve God and to serve our faithful by preaching, by the celebration of the Sacraments, by offering programs and ministries which aim to bring us ever closer to the Lord. We thank God for your faithfulness, for your Stewardship.

Your 2018 Ecclesiastical Calendar

This year’s Christmas mailing, as is the case every year, includes an ecclesiastical wall calendar. It is written in Greek and in English. Notice each of the date boxes. They include: the day and number of the month, the name of the Saint(s) whose feast day falls on that day, and Scripture readings. The first reading refers to a part of the New Testament, which is found after the Gospels. In other words, from the Book of Acts, which follows the Gospel according to Luke, all the way to and including Jude, just before the last New Testament letter, Revelation. The second reading refers to one of the Gospels, found at the beginning of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. You will notice, as well that some days are in a shaded blue color, while others are white. The calendars are being sent to you not just for purposes of information, but as opportunities for meditation and prayer. For example, reading the name of the Saint(s) whose feast day falls on that day, you might Google the Saint(s) name(s) and learn more about the Saint(s). You will notice that most of these were martyred for the Faith. They serve as examples of courage and faith, which are much-needed in our day. Then, look up the Scriptural readings. Read the passages and ponder what message God is sending you on that day. God, “who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the Truth,” as Saint Paul reminds us in his first letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:4). Finally, if a day appears in shaded blue, as is typical of most Wednesdays and Fridays, as well as a series of days prior to Pascha and Christmas, and also the first two weeks of August, this indicates it is a day of fasting. On those days, we eat less than on other days. Also, we eat things like readily available fruits and vegetables, avoiding meats and animal products and, therefore, excessive cooking and preparation. The reason why fasting was instituted by our Lord (actually He followed fasting traditions that He knew growing up), was so that we could devote more time to prayer and to being philanthropic—tending to the needs of others more, and less to our own needs. As the early Church fathers pointed out, we fast on Friday as we remember that our Lord was crucified and died for us on a Friday. We also fast on Wednesday as we remember His betrayal. As you can see, your 2018 ecclesiastical calendar is a very useful item, which your Cathedral is happy to provide. With this, we wish you a blessed Nativity and a happy, healthy and peaceful New Year!

20. On that day the Lord will shave with a razor hired beyond the River—with the king of Assyria—the head and the hair of the feet, and it will take off the beard as well. 21. On that day one will keep alive a young cow and two sheep, and will eat curds because of the abundance of milk that they give, for everyone that is left in the land shall eat curds and honey.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Festival 2017: Thanks all Around

Angel Tree 2017

This Christmas season our Chapter is partnering with Hamilton Family Center which supports families at risk in San Francisco. Currently there is a critical shortage of baby items. In the past our Annunciation families have been most generous in providing supplies / gifts to those less fortunate. The Philoptochos will be collecting donations of new baby items at church on the following four Sundays: Nov 26, Dec 3, 10 and 17. Look for a Philoptochos member at the Angel Tree table, located in the church hallway to drop off any items. Vivian Curd is chairing this project and can be contacted for any questions at 650-873-6055.

Here is a list of the items to purchase:

- Baby clothes
- Receiving towels
- Blankets
- Pacifiers
- Sippy cups
- Bottles
- Thermometers
- Umbrella strollers
- Disposable diapers sizes 3, 4, 5, 6
- Baby wipes

Philoptochos Happenings

A snapshot of what we're working on:

November 19th: mailed over 50 Hurricane relief School and Hygiene kits to those in needs

November 21st: Community Kitchen. Prepared and helped serve a Thanksgiving Meal with the YA, special thanks to our cooks, Jim Sogotis and Joseph Stevens

December 3rd: Christmas Celebration Luncheon to honor Pat Aleck and our Youth Ministries. Hope to see you there!

December 3rd –December 17th: Christmas Angel Tree (an annual holiday charity). Collecting new baby items to help support Hamilton Family Center – see article in Herald

December 1st: Last day to order Christmas Pastry Box Set

December 10th & 17th: Pastry Boxed Bake Sale pick up. Proceeds to benefit the California Fire victims. Remember to order by December 1st.

January Vasilopita bread sale ordering begins December 3rd – December 23rd. Order pick-up date Saturday, December 30th. Order forms will be available in the Church Narthex

January 7th: Vasilopita Sunday Brunch following Divine Liturgy save the date. Proceeds to benefit St. Basil's Academy

January 26th: Crab Feed. Reserve by Sunday, January 14th – form included in Herald and additional forms are located in the Church Narthex

If you would like additional information, or interested in volunteering or be a part of "Keeping up with the Philoptochos" please call Philoptochos office at 415.864.8000 x113 or email Grace Koutoulas gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com

Philoptochos Christmas Pastry Box Sale

Philoptochos is holding a special fund raiser to raise funds for the Northern California fire victims, to help make their Holiday a little bit brighter. We will be baking and selling our delicious home-made pastries boxed and ready to go. Please use the following order form.



Combo Box A:

Quantity (10pc) _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____
Combo Box A includes: 4 Baklava, 3 Melomakarona and 3 Kourambiethes

Combo Box B:

Quantity (12pc) _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____
Combo Box B includes: 4 Melomakarona, 4 Kourambiethes, and 4 Koulouraki/Paxamadi

Baklava:

Quantity (1/2 dozen) _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Melomakarona:

Quantity (one dozen) _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Kourambiethes:

Quantity (one dozen) _____ x \$20.00 = \$ _____

Total Quantity: _____ Total \$ _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

LAST DAY TO ORDER: Friday, December 1st

ORDER PICKUPS: Sunday, December 10th or December 17th after Church Services

Mail your order and check to:

Annunciation Philoptochos
245 Valencia St.
San Francisco, CA 94103

Any Questions, please call Philoptochos office at 415.864.8000 x 113

Thank you and Merry Christmas to all!

Vasilopita Brunch 2018



- Please save the date to join us for a
- Vasilopita Brunch following Divine Liturgy
 - Sunday, January 7, 2017



A Holiday note of gratitude from Philoptochos

As we prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, our thoughts turn gratefully to those who have helped make our Philoptochos' benevolence and projects possible. It is in this spirit we say... Thank you for your support and your faith. As we celebrate the miracle of this special season, may your hearts be filled with joy and peace.

Merry Christmas from the Sisters of Philoptochos.

*Kontakion of Christmas (tone three)
Today the virgin gives birth to Him who is above all being, and the earth offers a cave to Him whom no man can approach. Angels with shepherds give glory, and Magi journey with a star. For unto us is born a young Child, the pre-eternal God.*



All Events Calendar on the Web Site!

Yeah! As noted in the September Herald, we now have a "global" calendar, accessible to all, on our web site, www.annunciation.org. By "global" we mean that all events which go on at the Cathedral, including worship, meetings, games and practices for the church, practices and game times for Waldorf, and classroom and extracurricular events for the new school, all now appear on the "global" calendar. Want to know what's going on? Go to the web site. Scroll down to the calendar, on the bottom right. Click on any day and, voila! You see what's going on, any given day. Or, if you want to look ahead: simply click on the arrow and you can view what's going on for an entire month. The wonderful thing about it is, as soon as a calendar event is created at the Cathedral office, within a very short time it also appears on the "global" calendar. This was done in an effort to keep you, our parishioners, better informed as to what is taking place in your parish.

Y2 AM Ministry Plan [Y2am.org/Ministry Plan](http://Y2am.org/MinistryPlan)

(We just threw in the above to see how many of you will click on the above to see what it's all about. Hint: those who do so will not be disappointed.)

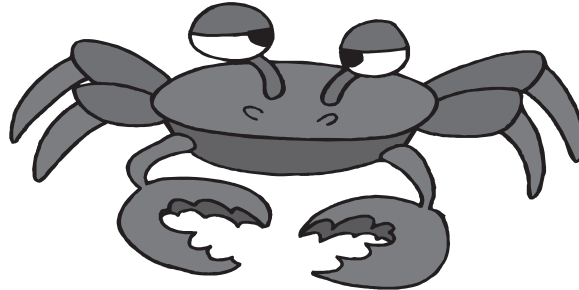
The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society
presents its:

36th Annual Crab Feed

Friday January 26, 2018

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm



Scrumptious Fresh Dungeness Crab

\$60 per person

Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment

Attended Parking Available

344 14th Street, SF

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) and/or _____ table(s)

(Maximum 10 people per table. Include the names of all guests to
be seated at the table)

Total Amount Enclosed _____

For Reservations e mail Foula Vasilogiorgis: annunciation2018crabfeed@gmail.com

or

Call 415-378-7200

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos, Attn: Crab Feed
Please mail completed reservation form and check by January 14th, 2018 to:
Annunciation Cathedral: 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94103



Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to be of service in this way.



Community Kitchen: A ministry begun by the Cathedral's Young Adults.

Although we don't begin serving until 6:30 p.m. some of our guests last month arrived as early as 5 p.m.



Bless those who serve!

Bless us all!

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. Shown above are just some of our Young Adults, who 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. In December, Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, December 19.

YOUTH NEWS



GOYA News

Matia, our GOYA Advisor, writes:

I know the holidays are upon us and thus it's a busy time... not to mention all the FDF practices that are underway. However, it would be great to get the kids together one time outside of dance and other things to do something as a group. Unfortunately, I'm in the middle of a long travel period, but I have about 7 days at the end of Nov/Early December where I'll be in SF to hang out with the kids. I've also spoken to some young adults and thought we could do something as a big group.

Please let me know which days/events we'll have critical mass.
Matia

Some ideas:

Friday, Saturday, or Sunday (Dec. 1, 2, or 3) - Ice Skating with Young Adults in embarcadero after dance practice
Friday December 1st - Burlingame Downtown Tree Lighting and Holiday Parade (hence, the graphic, above).

Response from a parent: Ice Skating on Saturday, December 2nd might work the best because there is no dance practice on that day. Dance Practice on Friday nights ends at 9 pm and on Sundays around 3:30. The Community Kitchen on Tuesdays is tough because it is on a school night so not sure what kind of a turnout you would get for that.

If you decide on the Saturday December 2nd Ice Skating event, maybe you could also add a holiday give back type of activity for the kids to participate in like Warm Coats & Warms Hearts Drive?.

<https://www.burlingtoncoatfactory.com/warm-coats-warm-hearts-drive.aspx>

The above reflects the status of the discussion, as this issue of the Herald went to press. Matia, meanwhile, will have communicated the consensus and, therefore, the December GOYA events, via text/email.

Meanwhile, GOYA events for the remainder of the 2017-2018 school year are:

January – break, due to basketball and FDF.

Sunday, February 25th 1pm - February post ski week activity (ideas?)

Saturday, March 17th, 2pm - March Activity (ideas?)

Saturday, March 31st, 1pm - Palm making at church

April - break due to Easter

Saturday, May 5th, 1pm - End of year BBQ at Washington Park

For more information about our teen group, please contact Matia Kostakis, by e mail at matiak23@gmail.com or by phone at 781-789-8611.

Κοντάκιον τῶν Χριστουγέννων
(Ἦχος Γ')

Ἡ παρθένος σήμερον τὸν
ὑπερούσιον τίκτει, καὶ ἡ γῆ τὸ
σπήλαιον τῷ ἀπροσίτῳ προσάγει.

Ἄγγελοι μετὰ Ποιμένων
δοξολογοῦσι· Μάγοι δὲ μετὰ
ἀστέρος ὁδοιποροῦσι, δι' ἡμᾶς
γὰρ ἐγεννήθη παιδίον νέον ὁ πρὸ
αἰῶνων Θεός.



Welcome, Millennium School

The Private School community in San Francisco is, probably because it is relatively small, also closely knit. The phone rang off the hook after Sterne School decided to relocate. The calls came from various schools—startups as well as established schools, which were looking for a new, more “permanent” home. Most stopped by to view our facilities, to see whether what we have to offer is a good fit for them. Over and over again, we heard how the Cathedral’s location is perfectly suited, how it’s easily accessible for folks coming over the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Bay Bridge, as well as those coming up from the Peninsula. We also heard how beautifully laid out our classrooms are. As for our gym, we were told over and over again how fabulous it is.

As this issue of the Herald goes to print, we are pleased to announce that Millennium School will be occupying the school facilities, as of January 1. Specifically, the school plans to hold all classes on the east side (Stevenson Street side), utilizing the 7 rooms there, and to set up offices in the two offices (on either side of the elevator) on the Valencia Street side. The school rooms will be used on a shared basis, i.e. we will hold Greek School on Saturdays and Sunday School on Sundays in those rooms. In addition, the school will utilize the gym, including the Kytherian Room, as well as the locker/shower rooms. We have had occasion to meet with the co-founder and head of school as well as with a number of teaching and other staff members and are pleased to begin this “shared journey,” as our Parish Council president put it, with the new school. So, welcome, Millennium. Do visit their web site, www.millenniumschoo.org. They offer an exciting middle school educational program.

Meanwhile, San Francisco Waldorf High School, which began at the Cathedral some years ago, by adding one high school class at a time, still uses our gym, after school hours, for their athletic program. We have enjoyed the long-time relationship with Waldorf, as we look forward to the Millennium School’s arrival.



Greek School News

Greek school is in full swing. Our teaching schedule remains the same: we begin at 10 am and we end 12:15 pm, every Saturday. (Vacation dates are noted). We always welcome new students, whether they speak the language, a little or a lot, or whether they don’t speak Greek at all. That’s why we’re here. The tuition remains the same. It’s \$500.00 for the year.

If you would like more information about our program, or would like a registration form, please contact Anthi Janssens at anthigj@gmail.com or 415 254-5458. You may also obtain a registration form by contacting the Cathedral office, at 415 864-8000.



Find us on:
facebook®

‘Like’ Annunciation Cathedral Sunday School!

Summer Camp (yes, summer camp!) 2018 Dates





Dance Group News

Greek Dancing in the heart of San Francisco

After performing at our amazing festival in September, the Annunciation Cathedral Greek folk dance groups are hard at work preparing for the 2018 annual Folk Dance Festival. Although our groups are currently closed to new dancers from October 1st until after FDF in January, we would love to speak with prospective dancers and parents about joining our program next year.

The members of the Annunciation dance family are thrilled this year to represent the Cathedral in our home town for 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! 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!

The Cathedral's award winning dance program consists of experienced and dedicated directors, talented dancers, and supportive families and community. All groups are currently open to new dancers for a limited time. Our program encompasses everyone from five years old to young adult. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com for more information.

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, Trina Misthos 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

FDF information

FDF website www.yourfdf.org

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

Instagram and Twitter @yourfdf

Snapchat @Your_FDF

- Your 2018 FDF Management Team and FDF Board of Trustees
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

NB: Adult Group in the Making

WELCOME

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
Katina Kostoulas

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.



Sunday School News

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

~Saint Theophan the Recluse

We look forward to the new Sunday School year, which begins on September 10th. As we are rebuilding the Cathedral, physically, we are also rebuilding our Sunday School program, with a view to making it second to none. We continue to encourage the parents and grandparents that bring their children to Sunday School to help us set new goals this year. One goal is to double the number of students who achieve perfect attendance. A second goal is to reach 100% attendance by the start of class—10:30 a.m.

We've planned an exciting year. Coming up, on December 17, we will hold our Christmas Pageant. Moving on to March, we will celebrate the great feast of the Annunciation, which is also the Feast Day of our Cathedral Parish. Godparent's Sunday, which normally takes place the Sunday before Palm Sunday, will, instead, take place on Sunday, March 18, because the Annunciation falls on the Sunday prior to Palm Sunday. Then, of course, we will hold TGI Pascha on Holy and Great Friday, April 6. We will not hold classes on Pascha, April 8, and we will end the school year on Sunday, June 3.

When you count the Sundays, you see that there are precious few Sundays for Sunday School. And, at one hour per Sunday, that's just a handful of Sundays for education about our Faith. Of course, we are always looking for more and more teachers and ways for improving our program. We welcome your input and your suggestions and, of course, we look forward to teaching your children.



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 DECEMBER is as follows:

- December 3 - Group 2
- December 10 - Group 3
- December 17 - Group 4
- December 24 - Group 1
- December 25 - ALL GROUPS
- December 31 - Group 2

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

Ioannis Anastasios, son of Anastasios Mavroudis and Natalia Fragakis Mavroudis, was baptized at the Cathedral on November 5, 2017. His Sponsors are John and Magdalene Lampros.

Na Mas Zisi! (Long Life!)

Funeral

John Basil Vlahos, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 29, was buried November 2. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia, his children, Teitsa, Basil, Nicholas, Cassandra and Michael, and siblings George, Tasia and Eugene.

Aionia I Mnimi! (Eternal Memory!)

Condolences

The Cathedral extends condolences to Nick Tarlson and his family, upon the recent passing of his mother, Popi (Kalliope). She fell asleep in the Lord, in Seattle, on November 13. Nick is the Cathedral's Choir Director. Nick and his wife, Mauna Arnzen, are the Cathedral's CPAs. <http://greeksinwashington.org/god-takes-care-of-me-every-time/>

Aionia I Mnimi! (Eternal Memory!)

D E C E M B E R C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Dance practice, 6:15 p.m.	Greek School 10 a.m.
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros 9 am Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12:30 p.m. Honoring Pat Aleck	Dance Practice 12:30 p.m.	Young Adult Dance Practice, 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Dance practice, 6:15 p.m.	Greek School 10 a.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Orthros 9 am Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12:30 p.m. Parish Council Elections	Dance Practice 12:30 p.m.	Young Adult Dance Practice, 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m. Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Dance practice, 6:15 p.m.	Greek School 10 a.m.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12:30 p.m. Parish Council 12:30 p.m. Philoptochos Bake Sale, Sunday School Christmas Pageant	Dance Practice 12:30 p.m.	Community Kitchen 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Dance Practice, 7 p.m. Young Adult Get- Together 8:30 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	The Great Hours of Christmas 10 a.m. Dance practice, 6:15 p.m.	
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.	Christmas, Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.					Dance Practice 12:15 p.m.
31						
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.						



*Study this Icon.
Look at the various
details, as the
cave, the manger,
angels, shepherds,
and stable animals.
These images are all
found in Scripture.*