



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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FEBRUARY 2018

FDF: 42nd Folk Dance and Choral Festival a Great Success!



The Metropolis Folk Dance and Choral Festival, which took place at the Marriott Marquis January 11-14, was a great success. With over 108 groups participating, it was the largest FDF to date. The Cathedral was represented by five groups, namely, To Mellon, Revmata, Thisavri, Spithes, and Atithasi. To Mellon, our youngest group, received participation medals. Thisavri received second place in the Division 2 Choral Competition. Thisavri also received Fourth Place in the Ju-

nior Category. Spithes received Fourth Place in the Division 1 Intermediate Category. Atithasi, the young adult group, performed at a non-competitive level on Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy, and just before the Advanced Senior Competition. In our opinion, all our groups are winners. As is our custom, the groups presented their trophies at the con-

see page 2



FDF *from page 1*

clusion of the Divine Liturgy the Sunday immediately following FDF. A period of evaluation and regrouping follows this premier youth event, and, then, the groups will convene for performances, the Festival, and, of course, FDF 2019.

The groups are:

To Mellon: Pre-K-1st grade, directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 2nd-4th grade, directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Trina Misthos and Eleni Taptelis

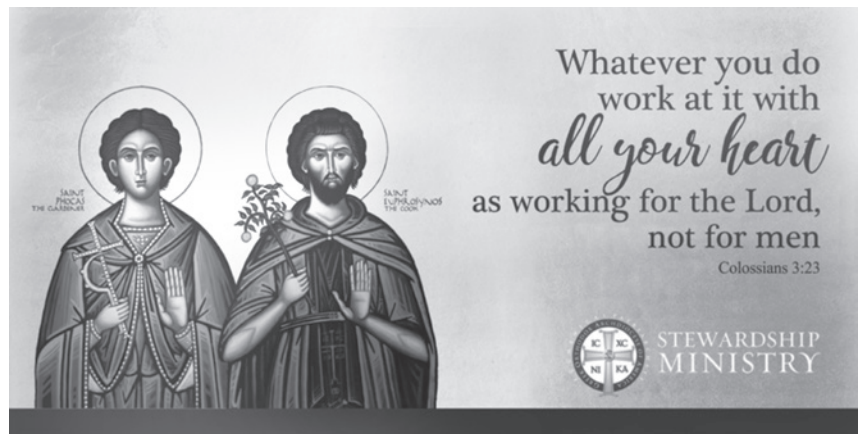
Thisavri: 5th-7th grade, directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 8th -12th grade, directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

The Cathedral also has another group, Atithasi, made up of young adults, directed by Michael Garibaldi and Nicole Garibaldi. The group performed in Division 4.

Stewardship and You

Our 2018 Stewardship Campaign is well under way. We cannot stress how important it is for everyone, age 18 and above, who considers the Cathedral to be your home parish, to support its ministries through Stewardship. For, we are a family, and a family needs all its members doing their part, in order for it to be a happy, functioning family. In an effort to properly acknowledge and thank you for your support, we will list the names of all Stewards in our March Herald. In case you've misplaced your card or if you wish additional cards for family members, these, as well as information about our Stewardship program, may be found at the pangari. They are in an envelope marked "Stewardship." We also invite you to direct any questions you may have concerning our Stewardship program, to Father Stephen or a member of the Parish Council Stewardship Team. Let's make 2018 a banner year for Stewardship for the Cathedral. Together, we can do it!





Good News! Planning Department Grants Conditional Use Permit

It seems like we've been waiting forever. For the exterior of the church to be completed. For construction on the interior to begin. And, for parking, parking, parking! As we know, the rebuilding of the Cathedral includes one level of below-grade parking. (A second level was considered, but was eliminated, due both to the high costs of constructing a second level and, more importantly, because the second level would be entirely submerged in water—the Mission Creek runs under the property, at the southeastern corner.) As parking is of a premium in the Mission District, and because we are keen both on security (we want the parking structure to be staffed) and the best utilization possible (we want to make the parking component available for public use when not used by our own parishioners, when they come for worship), we sought to engage a third-party operator to run the lot. For this, we had to obtain a conditional use permit. After more than a year in the planning, the San Francisco Planning Commission considered our request at a hearing on January 11 and granted the Cathedral a conditional use permit. The decision was unanimous. This means we can now move full-steam ahead: to finish the exhaust, install the gates, get the elevator inspected, complete a clear path of travel, lay the pavers, etc., with a view to opening the lot within the next few weeks. The Parish Council is also meeting with prospective parking operators, with a view to engaging one to handle the various aspects of attended parking. As soon as our parking component is fully operational, we will terminate subsidizing parking in the 14th Street and Stevenson Street lot (the lot behind the new Cathedral).



Thank you for making Good on/Paying Off Your Building Fund Pledge/Even renewing Your Pledge if You've Already Given

We thank those parishioners and friends of the Cathedral, who, during the last two months in 2017 and in January of 2018, have made good on or paid off their building fund pledge or, in some cases, have renewed or extended their pledge. All this bodes well in terms of funding our project. As noted in past issues of the Herald, 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. In turn, you responded generously. Some made a one-time payment; others made a 5-year pledge. Most of those who made a 5-year pledge have now completed their pledge. 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. Like when the window installation took longer than expected. 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 due every July, to the tune of \$400,000. But, we're moving full-steam ahead. Thanks to your faith in the future.

In spite of the teaching about icons defined at the seventh Ecumenical Council, in the year 787 [i.e. that they are to be venerated, that is, honored insofar as they are earthly mosaics or frescoes, or paintings, which remind the viewer of the reality they represent], iconoclasm persisted until the year 843, when a triumphal procession from the Church of Blachernae, in Constantinople, to Hagia Sophia took place, signaling the restoration of iconography. The exact date was March 11, 843, and it was the first Sunday of Great Lent. Ever since then, processions take place within our churches on the first Sunday of Great Lent.



HAPS is honoring Metropolitan Gerasimos February 11

The Hellenic American Professional Society of California (HAPS) cordially invites everyone to attend its 41st Annual Commemoration of Greek Letters Day. The event will take place on Sunday, February 11, here at the Annunciation Cathedral, beginning with Divine Liturgy concluding with an Artoclasia, honoring its scholarship recipients. A luncheon will follow at 1 p.m. in our Korinthias Hall. During the Luncheon, the 2018 Axion Award will be given to His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, for his leadership of the Metropolis and the many new ministries he has introduced for the benefit of our communities and our faithful.

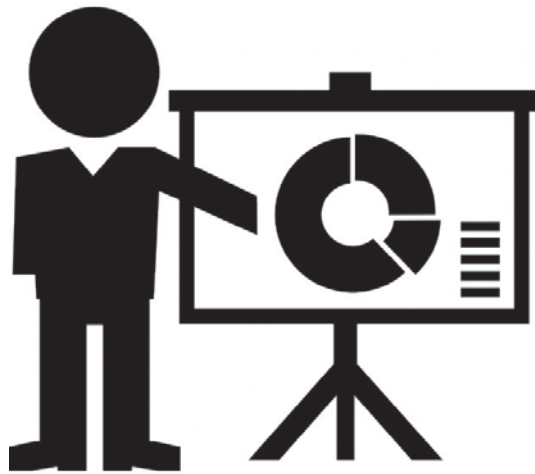
The committee asks that you respond by Monday, February 5th, indicating your attendance at the luncheon. The donation is \$60 per person. Reservations are secured upon receipt of your check and are held at the door. Please remit your check payable to the "Hellenic American Professional Society" or "HAPS" to Jason Bezis, 3661-B Mosswood Drive, Lafayette, CA 94549-3509. For more information, please call 925 962-9643 or e mail, jbezis@yahoo.com.

A Parish Home?

(We asked this question in last month's Herald and received some encouraging comments! But no one has yet donated a Parish Home...καλομελέτα και έρχεται, the saying goes. Loosely translated: have faith!)

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.

At the conclusion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy procession, a portion of the Synodicon is read. The Synodicon is another name for the decree that proclaimed an end to iconoclasm. It commemorates the saints, confessors and heroes of the Faith, includes an anathema against heresy, and proclaims the rightful place of iconography as a kind of visual aid, which helps the worshiper focus on the reality behind that which is being depicted. So, for example, when one looks at the icon of Christ, one venerates, i.e. honors the icon, but one worships God, as the icon depicts Christ with the letters Ο ΩΝ ("the one who is"). Recall, as recorded in Exodus 3:14, when Moses asked God for His Name, God responded with four letters that look like the Hebrew word "I am that I am," or "the one who is." Exodus, along with other books of the Old Testament, was translated into Greek and the Hebrew phrase was translated Ο ΩΝ. Jesus Christ was understood to be GOD HIMSELF. This is what the icon does. It not only invites one to think of the reality behind the icon: it teaches the Faith! So, icons are not adornments; they are indispensable to teaching the Faith.



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 February, the class will meet on February 4 and February 11. The class meets in the conference room on the second floor, beginning at 9 a.m.



Stewardship

a way of life

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 was the highest in recent history. Which means the faith of our parishioners is strong, that you want to see the Cathedral strong and thriving. We are looking forward to a similar and even stronger showing in 2018. As of December 31, 2017, 342 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), sent in their 2017 Stewardship pledge, which amounted to \$319,843. 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. With this level of support, it’s no wonder we exceeded our Stewardship goal for 2017, in the amount of \$300,000, and we are looking forward to an even stronger level of support in 2018. We thank you, for you are the Cathedral. God bless you. We had intended to print the names of all of our 2018 stewards to date in this issue of the Herald. However, we will do this for the March issue. We will be doing so as a way of acknowledging your commitment and thanking you for your support. If you know of someone who should be a steward but is not (that is, someone who considers the Annunciation Cathedral to be his or her parish but whose name is not on the honor roll of stewards), speak to that person and stress how important his or her participation is. Help us get the word out. If you prefer to have us contact them, call us and we will be happy to do so. The bottom line is: stewardship is how we get everyone engaged in the work of the church. It’s about RESOURCES (giving money) but, even more importantly, it’s about TIME (coming to church, praying, practicing what it means to be a Greek Orthodox Christian), and it’s about TALENT (helping one another, sharing the gifts that God has given you). So, yes, stewardship is a big deal!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Angel Tree 2017

This Christmas season the Philoptochos partnered with Hamilton Family Center to support families at risk by providing baby items, which there was a critical shortage of.

Our Annunciation families were most generous! New baby items were collected over 4 weeks and delivered to the Hamilton Family Resource Center on December 21st.

A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words...again, thank you for your support in all our Philoptochos events and project

Here is a list of the donations:

- 4 strollers
 - 23 bottles
 - 35 pacifiers
 - 16 sippy cups
 - 13 heavy blankets
 - 49 pairs of socks
 - 4 thermometers
 - 32 packs of diapers
 - 56 receiving blankets
 - 14 bibs / burp cloths
 - 55 packs wipes
 - 80 baby outfits
 - Various bath toys, diaper cream, lotion, soap, teething items, stuffed animals.
- Philoptochos thanks you for your generosity.



Parish Assembly: Sunday, February 4, 2018

Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend the first regular Parish Assembly for 2018, to take place in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall on Sunday, February 4, 2018 following the Divine Liturgy. The Agenda is as follows:

Opening Prayer

1. Election of Assembly Chair
 2. Reading/Approval of the March 26, 2017 Minutes of the Parish Assembly
 3. Treasurer's Report
 4. Rebuilding of the Cathedral: Where we are, where we are going
 5. Report of the Board of Auditors
 6. Election of the Nominating Committee (The Nominating Committee effectively becomes the Board of Elections after the October 28, 2018 Parish Assembly. As such, it will oversee the Parish Council elections, which will take place on Sunday, December 16, 2018, following the Divine Liturgy. Those elected will serve a two-year term.)
 7. Election of Delegates to the Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Assembly. (The Clergy-Laity normally takes place during the beginning part of July.)
 8. Philoptochos News: Janis Petrou
 9. Old Business
 10. New Business
- Closing Prayer

Parishioners in good standing (that is, those who are ecclesiastically in good standing with the Orthodox Church, as defined in the Archdiocese Regulations, and who have met their stewardship obligations to the Cathedral) may participate in the Parish Assembly. Quorum requirements, as defined in the Parish By-Laws are: 75% of the Parish Council (i.e. 12 out of 15 members), an equal number of other parishioners in good standing, plus the Dean of the Cathedral or, if fewer than 12 members of the Parish Council are present, then 75 parishioners in good standing, plus the Dean of the Cathedral.



Once again, there's an Events Calendar on our Web Site! Refer to it for our various Goings-On

As noted in the last two issues, we have a "global" calendar 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 Millennium 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. It also helps groups plan ahead for their events.

Apolytikion for the first Sunday of Great Lent: the Sunday of Orthodoxy, Tone 2

We venerate Your most pure image, O Good One, and ask forgiveness of our transgressions, O Christ God. Of Your own will You were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh to deliver Your creatures from bondage to the enemy. Therefore with thanksgiving we cry aloud to You: You have filled all with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.



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 November, the Young Adults teamed up with the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos and turned out a Thanksgiving feast! In December, the theme was Christmas. The Metropolis Young Adults contributed gift cards, which, in turn, were handed out to our guests. In February, Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, February 20. Our guests count on us to provide them with a hot meal, and fellowship May we, in turn, count on you? Once again, that's January 16, 5:30 p.m. for set up and 6:30 p.m. for serving.

Everybody's Talking About Community Kitchen

A recent blog in Food Runners, entitled "San Franciscans Care," mentioned our Community Kitchen. We re-print the applicable portion of the blog for your perusal, as we thank God...San Franciscans do care.

Food Runners

Tuesday, January 2, 2018

San Franciscans Care

By Nancy Hahn

Food Runners

Volunteer Coordinator



In mid-December, Volunteer Kelly C called following her regular food delivery to A Woman's Place Drop-in Center in SOMA. "A Woman's Place is trying to put together a holiday lunch on Sunday, December 24th. They do not have cooking facilities and are seeking sandwiches, snacks and other easy to hand out type of foods." Knowing that these specific donations might be in short supply on Christmas Eve, Food Runners contacted Annunciation Cathedral and asked if their parishioners might want to put together donations to fit the need. "We can do it!" exclaimed Christina at Annunciation. Food Runners Volunteer Samantha G picked up and delivered the donation. "Every time I do a run it reaffirms my commitment to Food Runners," stated Samantha. "Not only is the food needed by so many, I want to help the people who are out there helping."

San Franciscans care. It means so much to so many.

YOUTH NEWS

Junior Varsity Basketball

Junior Varsity basketball has begun. Our gym is busy every Wednesday and Thursday evening, for practice, and Sundays (and some Saturdays), for games. Our parish has a number of teams, both elementary and middle school boys and girls teams. We invite you to attend the games, especially home games, and to lend your support. Below is a schedule of the 2018 season, for your perusal:



Sunday, January 21st	at Ascension	Sunday, March 4th
at St. Nicholas (San Jose)	2:00 GES Ascension Holy Cross	at Annunciation
2:00 GES Ascension St. Nicholas	3:00 BES Holy Trinity Ascension 1	2:00 BES St. Gregory Holy Cross
3:00 GMS Ascension St. Nicholas	4:00 BMS Holy Cross Ascension	3:00 BMS St. Nicholas Holy Cross
4:00 BES Ascension 1 St. Nicholas 2	5:00 BES St. Gregory Ascension 2	4:00 BMS Resurrection Annunciation
5:00 BES Ascension 2 St. Nicholas 1		5:00 BES Annunciation St. Nicholas 1
6:00 BMS Ascension St. Nicholas		
	Sunday, February 11th	
at Holy Trinity	at St. Nicholas (San Jose)	at Holy Trinity
2:00 BES St. Gregory Holy Trinity	2:00 GES Holy Cross St. Nicholas	2:00 GMS Holy Cross St. Gregory
3:00 BMS Resurrection Holy Trinity	3:00 GMS Holy Cross St. Nicholas	3:00 BES Holy Trinity St. Nicholas 2
	4:00 BES Holy Cross St. Nicholas 2	4:00 BMS Holy Trinity Ascension
	5:00 BES Ascension 1 St. Nicholas 1	
	6:00 BMS Resurrection St. Nicholas	
at Annunciation		at Ascension
3:00 GMS St. Gregory Holy Cross		2:00 BES Ascension 1 Ascension 2
4:00 BMS Holy Cross St. Gregory	at Ascension	3:00 GES St. Nicholas Ascension
5:00 BES Holy Cross Annunciation	3:00 GMS St. Gregory Ascension	4:00 GMS St. Nicholas Ascension
	4:00 BMS St. Gregory Ascension	
Sunday, January 28th		Sunday, March 11th
at Ascension	at Holy Trinity	at Ascension
3:00 GES Holy Cross Ascension	2:00 BES Holy Trinity Ascension 2	3:00 BES Ascension 1 St. Gregory
4:00 BES Holy Cross Ascension 2	3:00 BMS Holy Trinity Annunciation	4:00 GMS St. Gregory Ascension
5:00 BES Annunciation Ascension 1	4:00 BES Annunciation St. Gregory	5:00 BMS Ascension Annunciation
at Resurrection	Saturday, February 24th	at Annunciation
2:00 BMS Holy Cross	at Resurrection	3:00 BMS Holy Trinity Holy Cross
Resurrection	10:00GES Holy Cross St. Nicholas	4:00 BES Holy Trinity Holy Cross
3:00 GMS Holy Cross Ascension	11:00BMS Resurrection Ascension	5:00 BES Ascension 2 Annunciation
	12:00BES Holy Cross Ascension 1	
at Annunciation	1:00 BMS Holy Cross Annunciation	at St. Nicholas (San Jose)
2:00 BMS Annunciation St. Gregory	2:00 BMS Holy Trinity St. Gregory	2:00 BMS St. Gregory St. Nicholas
3:00 GMS St. Nicholas St. Gregory	3:00 BES Holy Trinity Annunciation	3:00 GES Holy Cross St. Nicholas
		4:00 GMS Holy Cross St. Nicholas
	Sunday, February 25th	5:00 BES St. Nicholas 1 St. Nicholas 2
at Holy Trinity	at St. Nicholas (San Jose)	
2:00 BES St. Nicholas 1 Holy Trinity	2:00 BES St. Gregory St. Nicholas 1	Saturday, March 17th - Playoffs - TBD
3:00 BES St. Nicholas 2 St. Gregory	3:00 BES Ascension 2 St. Nicholas 2	Sunday, March 18th – Championships
4:00 BMS St. Nicholas Holy Trinity	4:00 GMS St. Nicholas St. Gregory	@ Annunciation
		2:00 - GES
Saturday, February 3rd	at Ascension	3:00 - BES
at Resurrection	2:00 GMS Holy Cross Ascension	4:00 - GMS
2:00 BES St. Nicholas 1 Holy Cross	3:00 GES Holy Cross Ascension	5:00 - BMS
3:00 BMS St. Gregory Resurrection		
4:00 BMS Annunciation St. Nicholas		
5:00 BES Annunciation St. Nicholas 2		

GOYA News

During January, GOYA took a break, due to FDF and basketball. However, we are starting up in February, with a post-ski week activity. And, though December was, as well, a busy month, we found time to go ice skating, and also get involved in December's community kitchen. In addition, we undertook a give back type of activity. We will, of course, be tying palms on March 31 and we will be holding an end of the year BBQ at Washington Park on May 5. But, we also want to hold an additional activity in March and, perhaps, even in April. We invite you to share your ideas by text and e mail. We welcome your ideas. At the same time, we welcome additional members.

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.



From this year's volleyball tournament



Summer Camp Update (yes, summer camp!)

186 days until Summer Camp 2018!

Summer Camp Staff Applications are now available at www.gosfyouth.org and are due by February 1, 2018. If you know of any great applicants in your parishes, please encourage them to apply!

Session 4 is now available to any campers who would like to attend two sessions of camp this summer! The last few summers we have limited camper registration to only one session per camper, but with the addition of the 4th session of camp, we are now allowing campers who would like to attend an additional session of camp to also register for Session 4! This offer does not apply to any other session of camp.

Online camper registration is quickly filling up! Make sure to register soon to secure your spot. Here is an update of the camper registration spots available:

2018 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION UPDATE:

Session I: July 8 – 14 (26 spots left)*

Session II: July 15 – 21 (20 spots left)*

Session III: July 22 – 28 (51 spots left)*

Session IV: July 29 - Aug 4 (95 spots left)*

*As of January 3, 2018

Online registration and more information available at www.gosfyouth.org

Dance Group News

Once again, congratulations to our groups. They 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, 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

Atithasi: Young Adults

Directed by Michael Garibaldi and Nicole Garibaldi

Below are some additional photos of our groups at this year's FDF:





Sunday School News

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

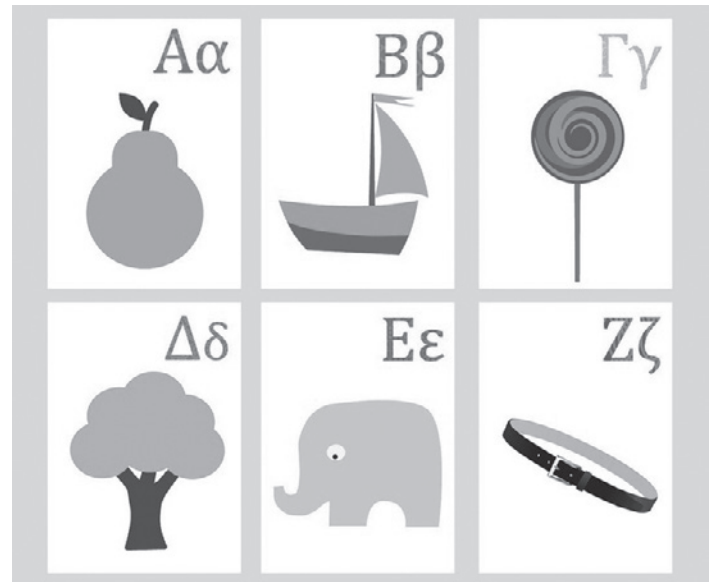
~Saint Theophan the Recluse

Happy New Year and congratulations to parents and students on a successful Sunday School Christmas program as well as FDF 2018! Thank you all for your support in the Christmas brunch and for a solid turnout during rehearsals and the program itself.

This year we brought back the manger to the program, after many years of it being forgotten about in a closet. The children quite enjoyed seeing it and remembering just who we are singing these songs for, our Lord. The manger itself does need some repair or to be remade, and if anyone would like to take on the project - come speak to Brittany.

Sunday school has restarted for the second half of the year on January 7th, and is on break during FDF weekend but resuming its regular schedule on January 21st. On the third Sunday of every month the PK - 6th grade music class happens, and the 4th Sunday is the 7th - 12th music class. Music class has moved back to the upstairs conference room now, but the regular classes have mostly stayed the same.

We look forward to teaching the second half of the year in the newly painted and furnished rooms we share with Millennium School.



Greek School News

Welcome back, everyone, and a happy new year from all of us at Greek School! Καλή χρονιά, με υγεία και ευτυχία!!! Greek school resumed classes on January 6th. Classes are in full swing. Good luck to all the students participating in FDF this year!!

We are happy to be sharing the beautifully renovated classrooms by Millennium School and look forward to a great partnership.

If you would like more information about our school, please contact Anthi Janssens at anthigj@gmail.com. Thank you.

Απολυτίκιον τῆς Κυριακῆς τῆς Ὁρθοδοξίας Ἦχος Β΄.

Τὴν ἄχραντον εἰκόνα σου
προσκυνοῦμεν, Ἀγαθέ,
αἰτούμενοι συγχώρησιν τῶν
πταισμάτων ἡμῶν, Χριστέ ὁ
Θεός· βουλήσει γὰρ ἠυδόκησας
σαρκὶ ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ Σταυρῷ,
ἵνα ρύσῃ οὖς ἐπλασας ἐκ τῆς
δουλείας τοῦ ἐχθροῦ· ὅθεν
εὐχαρίστως βοῶμεν σοι· Χαρᾶς
ἐπλήρωσας τὰ πάντα ὁ Σωτὴρ
ἡμῶν, παραγενόμενος εἰς τὸ
σῶσαι τὸν κόσμον.

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 Velis 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.

Saint John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival – 2018
Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

Parish Festivals should take place before April 1
District Festivals will take place during April
Metropolis Festival: Saturday, May 5, 2018

Topics and Speaker Helps are available on the
Metropolis of San Francisco Religious Education
Page: www.religioused.sanfran.goarch.org



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 February is as follows:

February 4 - Group 1

February 11 - Group 2

February 18 - Group 3

February 25 - Group 4

Our altar groups are as follow:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sacraments and Services

Baptisms

Liana Rose, daughter of Ryan Craig Lukehart and Marie Vassiliki Vorrises Lukehart, was baptized on January 20. Her Sponsors are Stephanie Vorrises and Denis J. Vorrises.

Na Mas Zisi! Long Life!

Chrismation

Dominique Jordan Romero was received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Holy Chrismation on January 28. His sponsors are Markella Santana and Nectarios Pavlakos.

Na Mas Zisi! Long Life!

Funerals

James Dakis fell asleep in the Lord on January 15. He is survived by his wife, Elli, and their children, Pamfilia Zambelis, Georgianna and Angela Dakis.

Aionia I Mnimi. Eternal Memory!

Condolences

The Cathedral extends deepest sympathies to Dr. Theodore Scourkes and his family upon the falling asleep of his wife (and their mother and grandmother), Inez Scourkes on January 14.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

F E B R U A R Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNES- DAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Presentation, Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	Greek School 10 a.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orthros 9 a.m. Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Philoptochos 12:30 p.m. JV Basketball 2 p.m.			Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.		Greek School 10 a.m. Saturday of Souls Liturgy at Cemetery 10 a.m. Navarino Messinian Dinner Dance 7 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Orthros 9 a.m. Meat Fare Sunday, Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. HAPS Luncheon 1 p.m.			Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.		Greek School 10 a.m. Second Saturday of Souls Liturgy at Cemetery 10 a.m.
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Parish Council, 12:30 pm	Great Lent Begins	Community Kitchen 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Get-Together 8 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	First Salutations 7 p.m.	Greek School 10 a.m. Third Saturday of Souls (St. Theodore) Liturgy at Cathedral Chapel 10 a.m.
25	26	27	28			
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Sunday of Orthodoxy GOYA event 3 pm			Basketball practice 7 p.m.			



Sunday of Orthodoxy

The above icon is one of many used to signify the Sunday of Orthodoxy. (More about the Sunday of Orthodoxy elsewhere in the present issue of the Herald.) In a word, the Sunday of Orthodoxy is the celebration of the return of iconography to the churches, in the ninth century, following a period of about 150 years of iconoclasm (the removal of all religious symbolism, including iconography) from churches. The Sunday of Orthodoxy is celebrated each year on the first Sunday of Great Lent.