



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

JANUARY 2018

FDF

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

In recognition of Great Lent, which in 2018 begins during the traditional FDF weekend in mid-February, FDF 2018 will instead take place over the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday weekend in mid-January, January 11 through the 14th, to be exact.

Everyone is invited to attend, not just parents, yiay- iades and papoudes. For those wishing to stay at the hotel, a special FDF room rate of \$195 per night has been secured. Please log on to yourfdf.org and follow the directions for booking.

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Stewardship and You

Last month, we ran an article in the Herald entitled “Gearing Up for our 2018 Stewardship Campaign,” and noted that, while the term “gearing up” might sound a little strong, it was used specifically because we are on a campaign. A campaign to enlist the support of all of Annunciation’s parishioners. We’ve noted statistics, that we are averaging 350 stewards. That is, 350 individuals and families fill out a pledge card to monetarily support the work of the Cathedral. To help the Cathedral meet its budget of approximately \$1700 a day, or \$620,500 for the year. However, supporting the work of the Church through Stewardship is more than a matter of meeting budgets. It’s a spiritual connection. And, so, the message of the Stewardship Campaign is not merely “give to support the work of the Cathedral,” but, as Scripture puts it, in the words of Colossians 3:23, above, “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for me. In the end, it’s not about mere giving, it’s about faith. We invite you, therefore, to read through the following paragraphs. They touch on the Mission of Stewardship—what is its purpose—and what does it mean for you, as a baptized Orthodox Christian, for your family, for the future? How can you shape that future? A question that is vital to our identity, as we build a landmark house of worship, to serve you and to serve future generations. One last

Whatever you do
work at it with
all your heart
as working for the Lord,
not for men
Colossians 3:23

STEWARDSHIP
MINISTRY

thing. After you read through the rest of this article, should you have any questions, we invite you to address them to our Stewardship team. Together with Father Stephen, the committee includes Gus Vouchilas, Philip Athanasiades, Chris Kyriacou, Nick Svetcoff, Perri Nager and Dean Nicolacakis. In the February issue of the Herald, we would like to feature an honor roll of stewards, and would like to see your name on that honor roll. How can your name be on the honor roll of Stewards? Simple, if you are an individual 18 years old and above, or a husband and wife, who consider the Annunciation Cathedral your parish, send in your 2018 Stewardship Pledge Card by January 15, if you have not already done so. Meanwhile, please read on.

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FDF *from page 1*

PLEASE NOTE: When making hotel reservations under the FDF room block via the link on the FDF web site, please be advised that the hotel charges a non-refundable deposit of one night's room rate per room at the time of booking.

Hosting over 3,000 participants annually, FDF is the largest youth ministry program of the Metropolis of San Francisco. It is also the largest youth ministry of the Annunciation Cathedral parish. This ministry is dedicated to promoting, encouraging and continuing the Orthodox faith, Greek heritage and culture among individuals, families and communities by expressing it through folk dance, song, art, music and language.

Beginning Thursday night with the Opening Ceremony, and concluding Sunday evening with the Awards Show, FDF includes three days of Greek dance and choral competition, as well as non-competitive "exhibition" dance performances, with nearly 100 groups participating. Educational workshops about the Orthodox faith are offered to all attendees throughout the weekend. FDF's Diakonia Project – a project designed to promote and encourage dance groups to perform charitable acts within their communities – has also evolved into organizing an additional all-hands community service project on-site during FDF weekend. In addition, various entertainment options and activities fill the weekend, including concerts, glendia, guest speakers, musicians, comedians and kids events, all of which have helped encourage guests from around the world to come visit and partake in this fantastic weekend.

Don't forget the most important thing: daily worship and the Sunday Divine Liturgy. There is a chapel in the hotel for daily services. On Sunday, January 14, the Divine Liturgy will take place in the hotel's ballroom, beginning at 9 a.m.

We wish our groups well. All of them are participating:

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 will perform in Division 4.

Stewardship and You *from page 1*

Orthodox Christian Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen faith. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

An Orthodox Christian Steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The parish encourages and expects all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the Parish and her Ministries, which in turn support the National Ministries of our Archdiocese, Metropolises, and institutions.

Effective stewardship ministry is not a single event or project. Rather, it is going out to our people wherever they are in their walk with Christ, listening to their concerns, helping them to realize their importance as branches of the True Vine and encouraging them to offer their gifts in His service. We use various resources to support our efforts, but unless we meet with our people personally, sincerely listen to their ideas and concerns, and share a vision for the future of the parish, our efforts will not reach their full potential.

In "Oriented Leadership," their book on Orthodox Christian leadership, the authors Williams and McKibben define stewardship as the call of the faithful to share willingly the gifts that God has bestowed on them, including sharing these gifts for God's work. Stewardship is devotion and service to God and His Church as persons, as families, as a Parish, as a Metropolis, as a National Church, and as the Church Universal. Stewardship is our active commitment to use ALL our time, talent and treasure for the benefit of humankind in grateful acknowledgement of Christ's redeeming love.

Stewardship is caring for the needs of others. Stewardship is offering one's self to God as He offered Himself to us. Stewardship is what a person does after saying "I believe..." as proof of that belief. - Williams and McKibben in Oriented Leadership

In the words of Fr. William Chiganos of Holy Apostles Church in Westchester, Illinois, "...people don't give to need; they give to vision.... Church people don't stretch their giving because of need to meet the budget; they give more because they are able to see a vision of people being reached and God's purposes being accomplished in the life of the church and its ministry." Parishes with successful Or-

thodox Christian Stewardship Programs have found that incredible support is unleashed from Stewards who unselfishly and joyfully offer their time, talent and treasures, which in turn enhances the spirituality and ministry of the local parish.

We happen to believe that the Annunciation Cathedral parish is such a parish, as defined above. It is a family of God's people, accepting, embracing, loving, committed, dedicated. May God continue to bless the work of our hands, as, whatever we do, we do with all our heart, as working for the Lord!



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.



DR. ANTHONY ELITE TURNS 80

Quiet and unassuming, Dr. Anthony Elite is a powerful example of faith, to both his family and his community. A frequent communicant in the Liturgy, Dr. Elite has championed the causes of education, and of poverty, homelessness and isolation as far back as we can remember. He has, over the course of his distinguished career, brought many people, young and old, back to health and to a sound spiritual state. His pride and joy is his family, with whom he quietly spent his 80th birthday. "May you live as old as Moses," the saying goes. (Moses lived to be 120.) But, why stop at 120?

CONNIE PANAGOTACOS TURNS 97

Known to all as optimistic, charismatic, a doer and a leader, Connie recently turned 97 years young. Articulate and determined, Connie possesses the gifts of compassion and leadership, and commands the respect of all. As past president of Philoptochos, Connie continues to give her all to Philoptochos as well as to her community at large. Her family—sons, daughters in law, their children, and their children's children! gather around her every moment possible—she is the true matriarch! Once again, "as old as Moses" is an achievable wish. May she live many more years and thrive.



Building Update: In the Home Stretch for the Exterior! Αμὴν και πότε;

Once again, we're in the home stretch as far as the exterior is concerned. 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. 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 eagerly waiting for a Conditional Use Permit, which will enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. As for the interior: we hope to begin the upper interior once the present Contractor finishes his work. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. As we know, 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 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. We thank those who have heeded



our invitation and who have extended their support. In the end, you are investing in the future, not only of the Cathedral building, but of the Faith, as Orthodoxy makes firm footing, in the heart of our great City. If you wish to discuss your support of this sacred undertaking, we invite you to speak with Tom Nuris, our Capital Campaign Committee Chair, or Father Stephen, our Dean: fatherstephen@annunciation.org

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

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 of you made a one-time payment; others made a 5-year pledge. Most of those who made a 5-year pledge have completed 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. 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. Our Capital Campaign fund is now just below \$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. We thank you for your affirmative response: to date, about 1/5 of the outstanding balances has come in.





A Parish Home?

(We asked this question in last month's Herald and received some encouraging comments!)

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.

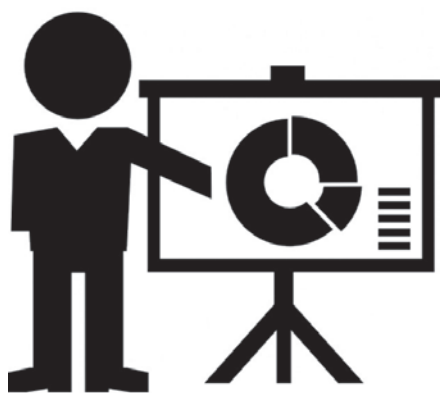
Parking: Getting Closer to Opening up our own Parking Component

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 and as we sit down to negotiate with a third-party operator to run our lot. A conditional use permit will enable us to make our parking available to the public when it is not in use by the church. As a hearing was scheduled after this issue of the Herald went to press, we will announce the results in our Sunday bulletins as well as in the next issue of the Herald. Obtaining a conditional use permit is only one piece to the puzzle. There are several other steps, including inspection of the elevator, finalization of a clear path of travel, and, of course, final inspections. We apologize for the delays, but are closer than we've been in a long time.

Reading from the first Epistle of Paul to the Corinthians, 10:1-4
(read at the service of the Great Blessing of the Waters, on Holy Theophany):

Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.



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 January, the class will meet on January 17 and January 14. 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 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 1, 2017, 323 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), have sent in their 2017 Stewardship pledge, which amounted to \$307,843. 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.

The average pledge amount for 2016 was \$845 (as compared to \$782 in 2013). As of this writing, it is \$953. With this level of support, it's no wonder we exceeded 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. As noted in the first article about stewardship, we will print the names of all 2018 Stewards in our next issue of the Herald, 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. Call us, if you wish, and we will be happy to send them a stewardship packet. Yes, indeed, Stewardship is a big deal!

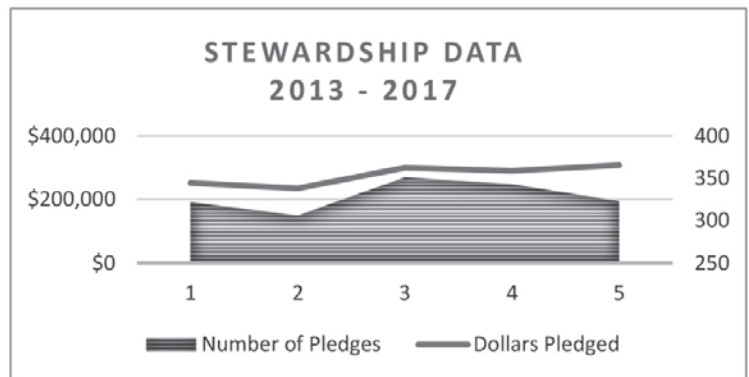
STEWARDSHIP DATA	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	LAST MONTH/THIS MONTH
Number of Pledges	322	306	351	343	323	318/323
Pledged Dollars	\$251,670	\$235,001	\$299,637	\$289,989	\$307,843	\$296,323/\$307,843
Outstanding Balances 2017					\$31,389	\$40,955/\$31,389
Average Pledge	\$782.00	\$768.00	\$854.00	\$845	\$953.00	\$932/\$953
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above					127	124/127
Number of pledges between 601 and 999					29	30/29
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below					167	162/167
Number of individual 2016 pledges that have not pledged for 2017 to date					65	65/65

Period ending Nov 30, 2017

% Change TY/LY to Date

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

Unique 2017 Pledges :
(no pledge 2013 - 2016)



Oops on this year's Christmas Card

This year's Christmas mailing included the community Christmas card. Volunteers staffed a table following the Divine Liturgy during the month of November and collected names of parishioners who wish to extend Christmas greetings to one another. (The card was mailed to about 1000 households.) While every effort was made to be accurate, we omitted two names, inadvertently of course. We did not discover this until after the card was printed and mailed. The two names are Helen Morales and Dr. Nikolas and Stavroula Stathopoulos and family. We apologize for the omission. (The committee called and apologized for this "oops.") Please know that the two families, namely Helen Morales the Stathopoulos family, join the other 140 parishioners and parish families who extended Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year, via the 2017 Christmas Card.

Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark, 1:9-11

(read at the service of the Great Blessing of the Waters, on Holy Theophany):

And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan. And straightway coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS



A winter wonderland!

Christmas Celebration and Luncheon – Thank You!

On behalf of the *Joy Christmas Celebration Luncheon Committee*, we extend our heartfelt gratitude and love to all who supported and attended our December 3rd luncheon. Everyone's participation and assistance helped make this a memorable and successful event.

Best wishes for the New Year!

The Joy Christmas Celebration Luncheon Committee – President Janis Petrou, Co-chair Valerie Roumeliotes, Vivian Curd, Liberty Nuris, Meena Vellis, Vicki Holloway, Grace Koutoulas, and Presbytera Aliki Kyriacou

2018 Greetings

The Ladies Philoptochos of the Annunciation Cathedral wishes you and your families a very blessed and joyous New Year/ Καλή Χρονιά! May 2018 be a year filled with many blessing and the Philoptochos spirit as we continue our mission to help those in need.

Upcoming January Events – Mark Your Calendars!

January 7th: Vasilopita Brunch – Following the Divine Liturgy
January 26th: Annual Crab Feed – Deadline for reservations is January 14th. Please contact Foula Vasilogiorgis at annunciation2018crabfeed@gmail.com or call 415-378-7200



A fitting tribute to Pat, a celebration of joy that Christ is Born!



Gorgeous!!



Down to the last detail.



Snowflakes, Christmas trees and wreaths everywhere!

Vasilopita Brunch



Please bring your Family & Friends and join us as
we celebrate the New Year
with our Annunciation family at this year's
2018 Vasilopita Brunch!
Sunday, January 7th
Following the Divine Liturgy

Price per ticket: \$20.00

Children: \$10.00

RSVP by: January 3rd

Please make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos

Please send payment and reservations to: Annunciation
Philoptochos Office

245 Valencia Street, San Francisco

Proceeds to benefit the Saint Basil Academy!

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.

The Apolytikion of Holy Theophany, Tone One:

*When Thou, O Lord, was baptized in the Jordan, the worship of the Trinity was made manifest. For the voice of the Father bore witness unto Thee, calling Thee the beloved Son, and the Spirit in the form of a dove confirmed His word as sure and steadfast.
O Christ our God who hast appeared and enlightened the world, glory to Thee.*

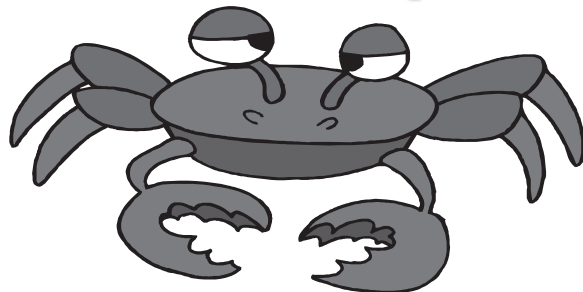
The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society
presents its:

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



Welcome, Millennium School (again);

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.

Last month, we announced the Millennium School will be occupying the school facilities, as of January 1. Specifically, the school is occupying all classes on the east side (Stevenson Street side), utilizing the 7 rooms there, and two offices on the Valencia Street side (on either side of the elevator). As the new school readied the classrooms, repainting them, replacing light fixtures, doors, etc., our own Greek School and Sunday School programs were disrupted. We even found it necessary to cancel Greek School the last two weeks in December (we’ll be making up for this by extending the lessons in January by an hour the first few Saturdays). As the class rooms will be used on a shared basis (i.e. we will hold Greek School on Saturdays and Sunday School on Sundays in the classrooms occupied by the Millennium School) we need to be mindful that they are classrooms and NOT play areas. They are to be used for learning and NOT for playing ball. Balls, in fact, will NOT be allowed in class. Please get the word out to our kids. We want to have a good and long relationship with the new school and do not want to be told that our own kids left messes or dirtied up the classrooms. So, teachers, parents, and students: let’s treat the facilities, especially the shared facilities, RESPECTFULLY, as we welcome the new school. And let’s rejoice that we are able to share. It’s a win-win, both for the new school and for the Cathedral.



Once again, there’s an Events Calendar on our Web Site!

As noted, 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.

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.)



Bless those who serve.



Although we don't begin serving until 6:30 p.m. some of our guests last month arrived as early as 5 p.m. Some 100 in all.



Wow! What a Thanksgiving Feast!

Community Kitchen: A ministry begun by the Cathedral's Young Adults Thank you, Lord, for allowing us to be of service in this way.

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 January, Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, January 16. 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.

YOUTH NEWS



GOYA News

Although December is a busy month, our GOYA found time to go ice skating, and also get involved in December's community kitchen (though weekday traffic is making it increasingly challenging to get to the City). A holiday give back type of activity for the kids to participate in like Warm Coats & Warm Hearts Drive, was also undertaken.

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.





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. In January, we will be extending our teaching by an hour to make up for the days lost in December because of the refurbishment of the classrooms. 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.



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Summer Camp Update (yes, summer camp!)



2018 DATES

STAFF ORIENTATION: JULY 3 – 7

SESSION I: JULY 8 – 14

SESSION II: JULY 15 – 21

SESSION III: JULY 22 – 28

SESSION IV: JULY 29 – AUG 4

SESSION 4 NEWS:

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.

Register now to secure your spot! www.gosfyouth.org

2018 SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION UPDATE:

Session I: July 8 – 14 (39 spots left)*

Session II: July 15 – 21 (41 spots left)*

Session III: July 22 – 28 (84 spots left)*

Session IV: July 29-Aug 4 (100 spots left)*

*As of December 13, 2017

Κοντάκιον τῶν Θεοφανείων Ἡχος Α΄)

Ἐν Ἰορδάνῃ βαπτιζομένου σου, Κύριε, ἡ τῆς Τριάδος ἐφανερώθη
προσκύνησις· τοῦ γὰρ Γεννήτορος ἡ φωνὴ προσεμαρτύρει σοι,
ἀγαπητὸν σε Υἱὸν ὀνομάζουσα· καὶ τὸ Πνεῦμα ἐν εἴδει περιστερᾶς
ἐβεβαίον τοῦ λόγου τὸ ἀσφαλές. Ὁ ἐπιφανείς, Χριστέ ὁ Θεός, καὶ
τὸν κόσμον φωτίσας, δόξα σοι.



Dance Group News

After another year of hard work, dedication and practice FDF has arrived! This FDF is extra special, and not just because it is a month early. The groups have spent all year preparing and learning new suites to present in our own home city of San Francisco! Thousands of dancers, parents, grandparents, relatives and spectators will converge on the City by the Bay to celebrate our culture and heritage at the Marriott Marquis downtown.

The festivities kick off Thursday evening, January 11th with opening ceremonies and culminate on Sunday night, January 14th with the awards banquet and ceremonies. There are tickets available on site and everyone is welcome to attend. The Cathedral's 3 middle groups, Spithes, Thisavri and Revmata will compete on Friday, January 12th and Saturday, January 13th. Our youngest group, To Mellon will be exhibiting their dancing skills on Saturday. We also have a new adult group, Atithasi, performing an exhibition suite this year on Sunday, January 14th. An additional treat is a special performance by Giorgos Tsalikis on Saturday night. More information is available on the website yourfdf.org.

The dance program participants are very excited to represent our Cathedral and would love your support, whether by attending FDF and cheering them on or by wishing them good luck when you see them practicing their songs and dances. Καλή διασκέδαση!

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

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.

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.



Sunday School News

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

~Saint Theophan the Recluse

On December 17, we held our Christmas Pageant. January is FDF. In the latter part of January, we will be rearranging our materials in the classrooms we are now sharing with Millennium School. In February, we will hold classes as scheduled, culminating in our participation, on February 25, in the Sunday of Orthodox procession at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. 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 ways for improving our program. We welcome your input and your suggestions and, of course, we thank you for the privilege of 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 JANUARY is as follows:

January 7 - Group 1

January 14 - Group 2

(Open to all non-FDF participants)

January 21 - Group 3

January 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.

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

Anahi Nicoletta Ramos, daughter of Nicholas and Johanna Medrano Ramos, was baptized at the Cathedral on December 9. Her Sponsor is Manoli Boutzoukas.

Caleb Michael Perez, son of Mason and Mariah Lahue Perez, was baptized at the Cathedral on December 16. His Sponsor is Antonia Kourkoutakis.

Joseph Webb, son of William (Bill) and Ariana Destein Webb, was baptized at the Cathedral on December 27. His Sponsors are Nicholas, Jennifer and Melina Destein.

Isabella Webb, daughter of William (Bill) and Ariana Destein Webb, was baptized at the Cathedral on December 27. Her Sponsors are Nicholas, Jennifer and Melina Destein.

Na Mas Zisi! (Long Life!)

Funeral

Ilias Frangos, who fell asleep in the Lord in December 16, was buried December 21. Ilias is survived by his children, Kalliope Fousekis, James Frangos and Chris Frangos, and their children and grandchildren.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal memory!

J A N U A R Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
			Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Eve of Theophany: Great Hours, 9 am; Divine Liturgy & Blessing of the Waters, 10 am. Dance Practice 6:15 pm	Holy Theophany: 9 a.m. Greek School 10 a.m. Orthros 10 a.m. Agiasmos, Liturgy Dance Practice 12:30 pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Vasilopita Brunch, noon Dance Practice				Folk Dance & Choral Festival, San Francisco Marriott Marquis	Folk Dance & Choral Festival, San Francisco Marriott Marquis	Greek School 10 a.m. Folk Dance & Choral Festival, San Francisco Marriott Marquis
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 am Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Folk Dance & Choral Festival, San Francisco Marriott Marquis		Community Kitchen 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Get-Together 8:30 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.		Greek School 10 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Parish Council 12:30 Church JV Basketball 1 pm			Basketball practice 7 p.m.		Crab Feed: Reception 6:30 pm; Dinner 7:30 pm	Greek School 10 a.m.
28	29	30	31			
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Triodion Begins 2 pm Church JV Basketball			Basketball practice 7 p.m.			

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It was a glorious tribute. Filled with JOY. The joy of Christmas. The joy of gratitude. Hats off to the Philoptochos for making the December 3rd event, honoring Pat Aleck, an occasion of celebration and of love. As we look to the past, we look, with great expectation, to the future, symbolized by the magnificent Cathedral being built to the glory of God.