



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



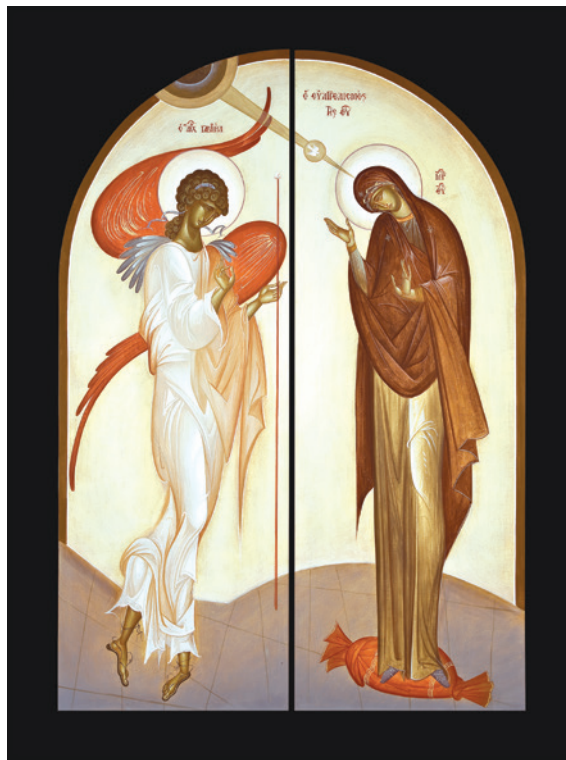
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MARCH 2018

Σήμερον τῆς Σωτηρίας...Simeron Tis Sotirias

The above caption refers to the opening line of the apolytikion-hymn of the Feast of the Annunciation. "Today is the fountainhead of our salvation," is the translation. Notice, the hymn begins with the words "Today is" rather than "Once upon a time there was." What happened 2000 years ago—the Archangel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would become the bearer of God in the flesh—is not an event that occurred once upon a time, but, rather, an event that unveils to us, in our time and for all time, its result, which is our salvation. For, the Annunciation is not an announcement of things to come. But, once the Archangel tells Mary she will bear the Savior, through the Holy Spirit, the Son

of God—the Word of God—takes on flesh, right then and there. The Annunciation IS the Incarnation. The icon shown here was "written" by Professor George Kordis, the iconographer for the new Cathedral. Notice, we did not say it was "painted," but "written," as the purpose of the icon is to convey, in visual terms, the Gospel itself. Granted, the icon shown here is as stylized version of the icon of the Annunciation, in contrast to the one on the back cover of this Herald, also by the same iconographer. Both icons capture the spirit of the event which appears in the Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 1, verses 26-38. The angel is a non-corporeal being (notice how it is hovering above-ground,



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Messinians Celebrate

On Sunday, February 4, the Navarino Messinian Society offered an Artoklasia, on the occasion of the Feast of the Presentation of Christ to the Temple. The main church in Kalamata, Greece, the capital of Messinia, is named in honor of the Virgin of the Presentation of Christ. Shown above is Kalliope Fousekis, the first woman president of the Navarino Messinian Society, receiving one of the loaves from Fr. Stephen as their grandson Vlasis carries the censer. The organization held a successful dinner-dance on Saturday, February 10, to benefit the Cathedral's building Fund and also other philanthropies.



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suggesting the angel is not a human being. Notice the shape of the wings, suggesting movement. Also, notice Mary, the Theotokos (meaning "God-bearer"), as she is receiving the Word. Her hands are uplifted, yet she looks downwards, in humility. The colors she wears are the colors of the cloths which covered the Ark of the Covenant (the container for the 10 Commandments). The Book of Numbers, chapter 4, verse 6 tells us: καὶ ἐπιθήσουσιν ἐπ' αὐτὸ κατακάλυμμα δέρμα ὑακίνθινον, καὶ ἐπιβάλουσιν ἐπ' αὐτὴν ἱμάτιον ὅλον ὑακίνθινον ἄνωθεν. "And they lay upon it a deep blue skin, and placed over it a mantle all of "hyacinth" blue. Verse 8 says it also had a cloth of κόκκινον, translated as "scarlet." Verse 13 speaks of an ἱμάτιον ὀλοπόρφυρον, a deep purple mantle. In all, there were four coverings: the first was gold-colored linen, the second was goat hair, the third was ram's skin dyed red, and the fourth was badger skins, or porpoise/seal skins, in either case, a deep purple. By depicting Mary in these colors, and also taking into account the Biblical readings offered during her various feasts, especially that of the Annunciation, Mary is depicted in the colors of the Ark of the Covenant: by bearing Christ, she herself becomes the Ark of the Covenant. The one Ark contains the word that God wrote on the tablets, i.e. the 10 Commandment; the other Ark contains the Word of God Itself.

March 25th, therefore, is a particularly significant holy day. Our parish, which is named for the Annunciation, celebrates big time. A luncheon, hosted by the Cathedral ladies Philopotchos, will follow the Divine Liturgy on that day. Angelo Koutoulas, who celebrates his name day on the 25th, will host a dinner to those coming to Great Vespers on the evening of the 24th, and will offer the Artoklasia (service of the breaking of the bread, recalling the 5 loaves blessed by the Lord), on Sunday. March 25th, finally, is a day dear to the Greek people. For, on that day in the year 1821, the Greek people proclaimed their independence, which they won after years of struggle. The bottom line is freedom, freedom from the grasp of the evil one, freedom from oppressors, freedom in Jesus Christ.

*Apolytikion for the Feast of the
Annunciation (Tone Four):*

*Today is the crown of our salvation and
the manifestation of the mystery that
is from all eternity. The Son of god
become the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel
announces the good tidings of grace.
Therefore let us also join him and cry
aloud to the Theotokos: Hail, thou who art
full of grace: the Lord is with thee.*



Parish Council Meets, Names Committees

At its January 21 meeting, the Parish Council named various committees, in an effort to better serve our parishioners. These committees are: Stewardship, Technology, Hall Management, Youth, Protocol, and OIKOS, to name a few. The Stewardship Committee engages parishioners in the support of the ministries of the parish. It also plans two luncheons a year: one on Stewardship Sunday (in the fall) and one on Godparents Sunday (the Sunday before Palm Sunday. This year, Godparents Sunday will take place on March 18). The technology committee oversees the Cathedral's technology program, from equipment to programs, from hardware to software. The Hall Management Committee oversees the hall use, its rental and management. (Currently, the committee is investigating replacement of the acoustical wall/partition between the Kytherian Room and the Gym.) The Youth Committee involves itself with all aspects of youth work, from JOY, GOYA, and Young Adults, and various activities and ministries, from basketball, to Sunday School, Greek School and dance. Protocol has to do with staffing the pangari, ushering, and church decorum. Finally, OIKOS offers ongoing lectures and adult education (see above).

The above committees are staffed, as follows: Technology: Nick Rally, Deno Konstantinidis; Hall Management: Dean Nicolacakis, George Gavros, Philip Athanasiades, Pat Aleck, Paul Sogotis; Youth: Tom Nuris, Manoli Nuris, Chris Ramos, GOYA Advisor, Dance Group Rep.; Protocol: Paul Sogotis, Nick Kontonis, Peter Manetas, Mike Bagatelos, Despina Kokalis; and OIKOS: Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Dr. Tony Elite. A most important committee is the Stewardship Committee. Named to the Stewardship Committee are: Nick Svetcoff, Paul Sogotis, Dean Nicolacakis, and Chris Kyriacou. However, in order for this committee to be able to do its work, a few more volunteers from our parish family are needed. We note the great work and leadership of Gus Vouchilas, who served as Stewardship Chair for a number of years. However, Gus stepped down in order to better care for his mother. In addition to a few more members, we need a chairman, who will be able to convene meetings and lead the group. This is, perhaps the most vital committee of all, if we are to grow our parish. We invite you to give this prayerful thought and to speak with Chris Kyriacou or Father Stephen about your willingness to serve.



March 18 is Godparents Sunday

Every year, the Sunday before Palm Sunday, Godparents Sunday is observed at the Cathedral. Godparents Sunday is an opportunity for all of us to reconnect with our Godparents and for Godparents to reconnect with those whom we've sponsored into the Faith—our Godchildren. The bond between Godparents and Godchildren is a sacred one, second only to the bond that exists between parents and children. This year, because the Sunday immediately before Sunday is March 25th, Godparents Sunday has been moved to Sunday, March 18. (Palm Sunday falls on April 1 and Pascha falls on April 8). On Godparent's Sunday, March 18, just prior to Holy Communion, we will be asked to recite our baptismal vows, as follows:

1. Do you renounce Satan? R: I renounce Satan.
Αποτάσση τῷ Στατανᾶ; Αποτάσσομαι.
2. Have you renounced Satan? R: I have renounced Satan.
Απετάξω τῷ Στατανᾶ; Απεταξάμην.
3. Do you join yourself to Christ? R: I do. Συντάσση τῷ Χριστῷ; Συντάσσομαι.
4. Have you joined yourself to Christ? R: I have.
Συνετάξω τῷ Χριστῷ; Συνεταξάμην.
5. And, do you believe in Him? R: I believe in Him as King and as God. Καὶ πιστεύεις Αὐτῷ; Πιστεύω Αὐτῷ ὡς Βασιλεῖ καὶ Θεῷ.

Godparents: do call your Godchildren and arrange for you and your Godchildren to come to church that day and receive the Body and Blood of Christ together. Godchildren: call your Godparents and invite them to come to church with you on this special day, as we prepare to commemorate the events of Holy Week—the betrayal, Crucifixion, death, burial and Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior. We look forward to welcoming you.

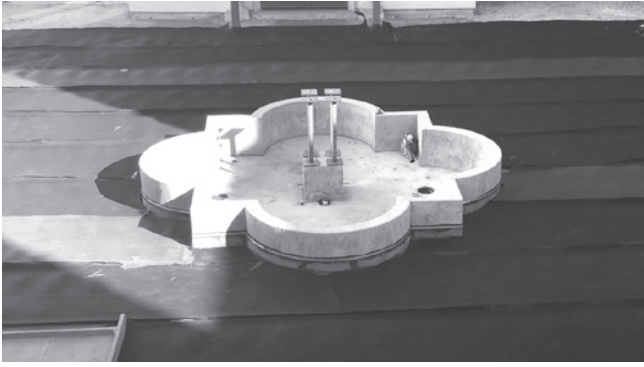
Your Building Fund Pledge

Once again, 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.

Ti Ypermacho, in English (the kontakion during Great Lent, sung at every Divine Liturgy and also at the Salutation Services on the first five Fridays of Great Lent):

To thee, O Theotokos, victorious leader of triumphant hosts, we thy servants, delivered from calamity, offer hymns of thanksgiving. In thin invincible power, keep us free from every peril, that we may cry to thee: Hail, thou Bride unwedded.

Courtyard coming Together



The laying of the courtyard pavers has begun. Several inches of crushed rock is being laid over the waterproofing membrane and under the pavers, to facilitate drainage. The last outdoor item which will be tended to is the Courtyard fountain.

The Valencia Street Fence Wall



The footings along Valencia Street are being laid. This will enable the fence to be pushed back and positioned behind the new sidewalk, which will be laid as this issue of the Herald is being delivered to you.

Putting on the Finishing Touches

Walkways, roof, arches, now waiting for elevator clear path of travel Looking into the legal side of what it means to have been issued a conditional use permit for operation of the garage 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



Shown above are some members of the team that is responsible for designing and constructing the new Cathedral. Shown with John Goldman and Gordana Dunic-Graves, our Architects, is Ken Katen. A member of the Cathedral community and a trained engineer, is overseeing the project, as "owner's representative." He works with Father Stephen and the Building Committee, convening and presiding over meetings of the construction team.

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).

Annunciation Cathedral Progress Meeting Agenda 2/14/2018

Item	Item Description	Questions/Issues	Next Steps/Notes	Due By	BIC
1	3-week lookahead	Review new schedule			MCC
2	Stucco	Pending completion of concrete & paver work.			
3	Stevenson Fence	Fence installed.	GA and ANN to determine if work is adequate quality to proceed with Valencia fences.		MCC
4	Cast Stone Work	Review/affirm elevation direction at 2/12 site meeting.			GA/KK
		Status of fountain and other misc. pieces.			MCC
5	Compaction	COMPLETED			MCC
6	Concrete work	Casy Fogli onsite			MCC
7	Tile roofs?	Work completed.			ANN
		Flashing at both breezeways/Cathedral wall	Detailing is unsatisfactory - discuss covering up as with upper other roof/wall junctions.		
8	Waterproofing	Plan for planter protector board? Status of HydroTek letter?			Enterprise/MCC
9	Pavers	Work underway.	Review intent of elevations given at 2/12 site meeting.		All
10	Parking Garage	Annunciation needs to get parking garage commissioned ASAP. How can we break the water line test logjam?	Review outstanding tasks and assign as needed		KK/GA MCC/GA/ Building Committee (if needed)
		Status of fire water meter?			
11	Valencia frontage	Forming and pouring underway.			GA/KK
12	Remaining electrical work	Status of JY Electric Billing? Review of scope of work	Pending		MCC/GA GA/KK
13	Contract Matters				MCC/ALL
14	Bird Strips				MCC/ANN
15	Punch list/substantial completion	DEFERRED			
16	New Business				ALL

Shown above is a typical 16-item construction meeting agenda, touching on some of the items that are being completed in phase one, including parking. Phase two will be the interior of the Cathedral.

biblical religious believe faith
Theology
 God preach spirituality worship

Introduction to Orthodoxy
“Introduction to Orthodoxy” Class
Welcomes New Members to the Faith

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

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

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

The class has been meeting on a weekly basis. Going forward, however, it will meet two times a month. In February, the class will meet on March 4 and March 11. The class meets in the conference room on the second floor, beginning at 9 a.m.



On February 11, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos was honored with the Axion Award by HAPS (Hellenic American Professional Society), which hosted a luncheon for this purpose at the Cathedral. Shown with His Eminence are Nick Stamatakis, HAPS President, and Loula Anaston, past award recipient.

*The opening lines of the Salutations
 for the First Friday of the Great Lent:*

*A prince of the angels was sent from
 heaven to say to the Theotokos, ‘Hail!’
 And seeing Thee, O Lord, take bodily
 form at the sound of his bodiless voice,
 he was filled with amazement and
 stood still, crying to her thus:*

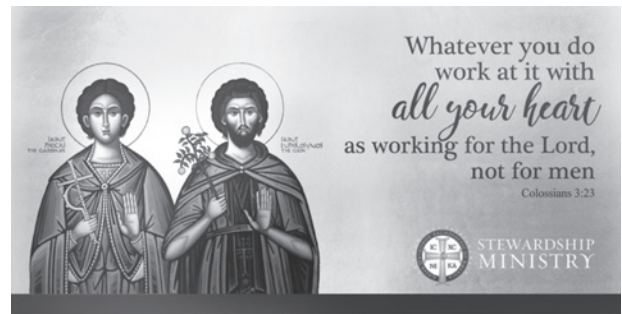
*Hail, thou through whom joy will
 shine forth:
 Hail, thou through whom the curse
 will cease.*

see next box

Stewardship and You: Efharisto!

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 have listed the names of all Stewards (through February 15) in this issue of the Herald. Don't see your name? You may have misplaced your card. 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" and also by calling the Cathedral at 415 864-8000 or e mailing, office@annunciation.org. 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. We want everyone to be included. Let's make 2018 a banner Stewardship year for the Cathedral. Together, we can do it!



Aleck, Demetria
Aleck, Patricia
Allen, Maria & Andrew
Ambus, Anthony & Zetta
Armatas, Christina
Arsinoos, Mariam
Arvanitidis, Athena & Nicholas
Asprogerakas, Danny & Eliana
Bagatelos, Michael
Bagatelos, Peter A.
Balian, Annamarie & Robert
Balian, Nicholas M.
Bardis, John & Kathleen
Barlas, Constantine
Batsakis, Alexandros
Bazgan, George
Bissas, Maria
Cardellini, Marie
Carter, Eleni Larissopoulos
Cazanis, Katerina & Peter
Chiappari, Philip & Annette
Chiappari, Yvonne
Cocoles, Jim & Luba
Cocoles, Stanley
Contos, Christopher
Cruz, John
Curd, Vivian & John
Cusulos, Nan
Davies, Ethel
Decker, Christina
Dekaristos, Mrs. Anastasia
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie
Destein, Jennifer
Destein, Melina
Destein, Nick
Destein, Patricia
Drolapas, Mrs. Themis
Efstratis, Jenny, Greg & Alexi
Efstratis, Lisa
Eliopoulos, Annette & John
Elite, Dr. Anthony

Fanourgiakis, Mike & Demetra
Fikaris, Antonia
Fkiaras, Evgenia N
Fotenos, Mr. James F.
Fousekis, Shareen & Spiros
Franco, Mrs. Helen
Garibaldi, David & Kathie
Gazulis, Theodore
Georgatos, Mrs. Toula
George, Sam
Glaros, Stanley
Grampsas, Bonnie
Hamberis, Paul
Haralabopoulos, Peter
Hernandez, Mr. Jose & Sofia Kleftogionne
Holloway, Vicki Eleni
Johns, Mr. & Mrs. John
Kallas, Mrs. Louise
Kamenis, Steve & Eleni
Karas, Angelus
Karas, Bill
Karas, Joanna
Karas, Kathy
Karas, Mr. & Mrs. Tom
Kasolas, Michael & Stella
Katen, Ken
Katsanis, Gari
Kavalaris, James & Joanne
Kenney, Danae & Knute
Klobuchar, Michael & Georgette
Kokalis, Despina Nick
Konstantinidis, Deno C. & Bella
Kosaris, Paul & Irene
Kotseroglou, Theofilos & Marianne
Kottas, Angelos
Koulos, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Paul
Kouropoulos, Georgia
Koutoulas, Angelo & Victoria
Koutoulas, Panagiota
Koutoulas, Pete & Voula
Kozak, Alexandros & Elisavet

Kremer, Alexandra
Kyriacou, Mr. & Mrs. Chris
Kyriacou, Rev. Stephen & Aliko
Lampros, Mr. John & Magda
Lawrence, Effie & Stephen
Lazarakis, Patricia
Leventis, Angie & Theodore
Lingas, Elena O. & Zachary H Weiner
Lukehart, Ryan & Marie Vorrises
Makras, Elaine
Makras, Sophie
Makras, Thalia
Marpoulos, Cynthia
Mares, Kathryn & William
Markanton, Helen
Markoulakis, Greg & Sophia
Mastrokyriakos, Christos & Melisa
Mattis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Mavroudis, Vikki
Melitas, Irene
Mellos, Faye & Michael Holland
Meyer, Beverly A.
Miltiades, Andrew
Mitchel, Mary
Morales, Mrs. Helen
Morearty, Margaret Fotinos
Moulas, Vicky A.
Mountanos, Michael S. & Erika
Mourgos, George & Dena
Nager, Perri
Nashawati, Bashar & Roud
Nicolas, Helen
Nicolas, Rita
Novo, Dustin & Chrisula Bissas
Nuris, Thomas & Liberty
Ocampo, Melisa
Oetzel, Robert & Pauline
Ossipoff, Alexander & Lula
Panagiotopoulos, Antoni & Sotiria
Panagiotopoulos, Magdalini
Panagotacos White, Connie

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Panomitros, John & Helen
Pantages, Mary
Pantages, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Papadakis, Emanuel
Papavasiliou, George & Lea
Papingu, Robert & Alma
Pappas, Voula
Paras, Demetra
Paras, Helen
Parashis, Marion
Patropulos, Joan
Pavlakos, Rose & Dominique Romero
Peters, Kenneth & Polytimi.
Petrou, Janis G.
Piccinini, Pamela
Polyzos, Maria & Jason
Pope, Antoinette
Potamou, Anna Hilla
Poulakidas, Sakee & Irene
Poulos, James & Despina
Prountzos, George & Pat
Rakos, Jim & Kelly

Roumeliotes, Valerie & Dimitri
Sheldon, Athena
Simotas, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry
Siouris, Michele Y.
Sogotis, Mrs. Rose
Sogotis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Spanos, Georgia
Spyridis, Maryanne
Stamatopoulos, Anna
Stathopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Marios
Stathopoulos, Nikolaos & Voula
Stavrides, Marilena
Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Peter C.
Stratakis, Mr. & Mrs. Ari
Tamaras, Joy
Tamaresis, Dorothy
Tarlson, Mr. & Mrs. Nick G.
Thomas, Mr. James
Tonas, Basil & Mary
Tostado, Daniel & Lea
Tsagaris, Eleni
Tsagaris, Aphrodite

Tsiatis, Athanasios & Christina
Tsokas, Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios
Vafiadis, Mr. & Mrs. Konstantinos
Vafiadis, Mrs. Irene
Vardakastanis, Bobby & Katerina
Vardakatsanis, Dimitri & Penelope
Vastardis, Rachel
Vellis, Aris
Vellis, Mr. & Mrs. Costas A.
Vorrisis, Angelo J.
Vorrisis, Denis J. & Renee
Vorrisis, Louise & James
Vorrisis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Vorrisis, Stephanie Louise
Vouchilas, Georgia
Vozaites, Antonios & Thalia
Webb, Bill & Ariana
Yannaghas, Mary
Zapantis, John & Mary
Zarikos, Panagiotis & Angie
Zografos, Mrs. Evanthia



Festival 2018: September 21, 22, 23

Though months away, planning has begun on this year's Food Festival, which will take place on our location at 245 Valencia Street, Friday, September 21, Saturday, September 22 and Sunday, September 23. By far the largest fund raiser for the Cathedral, it is also its largest social event, bringing together thousands of people for a weekend of food, fellowship, and faith. In recent years, social media has been the way people have been informed of the festival, and the growing crowds each year suggests we will expect to break another attendance record in 2018. But, we need volunteers. Volunteers to plan the festival. Volunteers to promote the festival. Volunteers to cook, organize and offer the various food items during the festival. We need you.

IF YOU WANT PEACE, WORK FOR JUSTICE

Social Justice Committee News

Hello everyone! I hope your 2018 is off to a great start. I intend this year to highlight activities and issues that can provide opportunities, in addition to the existing ministries of Community Kitchen, Community Link, and Philoptochos, to put our faith into action. As I mentioned in a previous column, Jesus' ministry on earth was fundamentally radical: he focused his attention on those who are overlooked, forgotten, ignored. His message was one of love and concern for others, rather than of self-interest. We can put this love into action is by joining together with others to bear witness and speak out against injustice.

A major opportunity to speak out against injustice in the U.S. is the *Rally to End Racism* in Washington, DC on April 3-5th. The National Council of Churches, of which the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese (GOA) is a part, is sponsoring this rally and call to action to complete the work of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in addressing racism across all sectors of society. April 4th is the 50th anniversary of Dr. King's assassination, and more information can be found here: <http://www.rally2endracism.org/>.

You may not be aware of this, but the GOA has a proud history of participating in the struggle for dignity and human rights in the U.S. In 1965 His Eminence Archbishop Iakovos walked alongside the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to memorialize two men who had recently been killed in the fight for civil rights for African Americans. Seeing the photos of the Archbishop with Dr. King caused me to swell with pride—I had no idea a hierarch from the Greek Orthodox Church had taken such a public and profound stand on behalf of the human rights of our fellow Americans. The Archdiocese has a nice website celebrating the 50th anniversary of the march, you can find it at: <http://civilrights.goarch.org/home>. There I learned that part of Archbishop Iakovos' inspiration to actively participate in the fight for civil and voting rights was his own experience growing up in a minority community in Turkey. He had a clear understanding of what it meant to be treated as less than a full member of society. He viewed civil rights as human rights, and that "voting was more than a right or an expression of citizenship; it was a declaration of one's God-created humanity" (<http://civilrights.goarch.org/introduction>).

The GOA is actively supporting the Rally to End Racism, and in fact will be hosting participants for Holy Tuesday services in DC on April 3rd. While it is difficult for many of us on the West Coast to get to Washington DC during Holy Week for the rally on the mall, I am hoping that many from our sister parishes on the East Coast will make the journey.

I wish all a blessed lent and please share your social justice ideas and concerns with myself, Elena O. Lingas (lingas@berkeley.edu) or with Fr. Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Crab Feed Moved to Saturday, March 3

As announced, this year's Crab Feed, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos, has been moved from Friday, January 26 to Saturday, March 3. The reason for the move, this year, was the unavailability of enough fresh crab to enable us to hold the crab feed in January. We trust you will be as supportive of the event this Saturday, March 3rd, as the crab feed is a major fund raiser for our Philoptochos. In turn, the Philoptochos supports a number of philanthropies, as well as the rebuilding of this Cathedral. For reservations: annunciation2018crabfeed@gmail.com



PHILOPTOCHOS MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

National Philoptochos Society

The Philoptochos, the philanthropic heart of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese and one of the largest women's philanthropic religious organizations in the United States, is a Society of spiritually faithful Christians united in love and service to others.

For more information about Philoptochos please visit www.philoptochos.org

S.F. Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Mission

Keeping with the spirit of Philoptochos, we will continue to contribute and support the mission of our society:

- to aid the poor, sick and those in need
- to make a difference in the needs of our neighborhood / the Mission

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- to promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic purposes
- to preserve and perpetuate Orthodox Christian's concepts, family and to promote faith and traditions
- to support our seminarians and students of the Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology
- to fulfill our obligations and commitments to our Cathedral, the Metropolis and the National Philoptochos' ministries

Philoptochos Membership

Philoptochos provides the opportunity to offer time, talent and treasure through Christian Fellowship. As women, we are simply asking you, a woman, to care. We are reaching out to all women 18 years old and older to invite, to embrace and to involve them in all our philanthropic endeavors as our Society continues to meet the increasing demands of our ever-changing world.


Philoptochos believes – YOU – our members are the Society's greatest resource. We need your talents and skills, be they in leadership, organization, special events, planning and presentation, public and press relations, technology, finance, food service, and events.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

To either join or re-new your membership to Philoptochos, please send back your membership form from the card that was sent out, or by picking up a card and membership form from the Church Narthex.



We look forward to having you as a member of our Philoptochos chapter.

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.religiouused.sanfran.goarch.org



Amazon Smile

A lot of us buy books, household items, and what-have-you on Amazon. If you sign up, at no cost to you, Amazon will make a contribution, based on your purchases, to the Annunciation Cathedral. If you have not already done so, visit smile.amazon.com to enroll. It's as simple as that.

*Hail, thou restoration of fallen Adam:
Hail, thou redemption of the tears of Eve.
Hail, thou Height hard to climb for the thought of man:
Hail, thou Depth hard to perceive even for the eyes of angels.
Hail, thou that art the throne of the King:
Hail, thou who dost hold Him who holdeth all.
Hail, thou Star who dost make the Sun appear:
Hail, thou Womb of the divine incarnation.
Hail, thou through whom the creation is made new:
Hail, thou through whom the Creator becomes a newborn child.
Hail, thou Bride unwedded.*

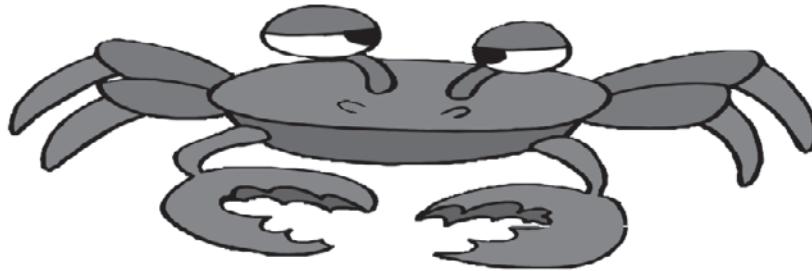
The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society
presents its:

36th Annual Crab Feed

Saturday March 3rd, 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

Park at
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 email 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 Tuesday February 20th, 2018 to:
Annunciation Cathedral: 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94103

Parish Assembly

Parishioners of the Annunciation gathered in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall on February 4, following the Divine Liturgy. After opening prayer and the election of an Assembly chair, the Assembly approved the minutes of the March 26, 2017 Parish Assembly and heard an extensive treasurer's report, including a review of the 2018 budget and the appeal to those who've made pledges to the Building Fund to make good on their pledges. A report was given on the progress of the Cathedral's rebuilding program, noting we are within weeks of completing phase one, which consists of the exterior, and also the below grade parking. Phase two, that is, completion of the interior will begin once our funding plan is in place and a contractor for this work is selected. Meanwhile, Kathy Dermitzakis, Irene Poulakidas and Tony Ambus were elected to the Nominating Committee/Board of Elections. This group will place in nomination those who will run for Parish Council for 2019-2020 and will oversee the elections. Paul Sogotis was elected to represent the Cathedral, along with Father Stephen, at the Archdiocese Clergy Laity, which will take place in Boston in July. An overview of the work of Philoptochos was offered, including the group's work with IOCC, cooking for the homeless, the Angel Tree project, the luncheon honoring Pat Aleck, the March 3rd crab feed, as well as plans to hold a luncheon on March 25th (Feast of the Annunciation and also Greek Independence Day), in tandem with the Parish Council. The Assembly represents the work of a dynamic inner city parish, poised to grow in membership and in ministries, as it rebuilds its church to the glory of God.



OIKOS News

We Began the year in September with a talk by Dr. Steve Harris, Ph.D. an Orthodox Christian and Clinical Psychologist from Newport Beach, California. Dr. Harris spoke to us from a chapter of his soon to be published book, "God, Psychology and Faith" by St. Sebastian Press. Congratulations to Dr. Steve and gratitude for his sharing his thoughts on the interplay between psychology and religion. We end the year in June with a six-day icon painting workshop, taught by Dr. Theodore Papadopoulos from Larissa, Greece. Dr. Theodore will give a Lecture to our parishioners on the icon of Christ that the students will be writing over the six day period at the Annunciation Cathedral. No prior artistic experience is necessary, just a willingness to dive into the experience with an amazing teacher. For detailed information see and on our web site or contact Dr. Katina Kostoulas (katinakost@aol.com).

People Ask

People are calling the Cathedral asking questions like, How do I become Orthodox? How can I learn more about your Faith? We were raised in this or that faith (or, in one case, recently, in several faiths), or in no faith, and, seeing the Cathedral being built, we want to know more about you, as we may want to become a part of your community. When they call, we try to discern where they have been spiritually, and how we may guide them to the Lord in fellowship with His Apostolic Church. We direct them to the class we have, taught by Alex Kozak, aimed at introducing people to the Orthodox Faith. We provide Alex's e mail: orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com. We also direct them to the Archdiocese web site, www.goarch.org. Once they're on the web site, we ask them to go to Library. Scroll down to Introduction to Orthodoxy. There, they will read: 1. an Introduction, which aims at introducing the non-Orthodox to Orthodox Christianity, 2. House of God, which describes the interior of the church building, 3. Worship, which discusses the form and characteristics of



Orthodox worship, 4. Liturgy, which describes the meaning and celebration of the Eucharist, 5. Sacraments, which describes the meaning and importance of liturgical life, 6. Special Services and Blessings, which describes the non-sacramental services which contribute to spiritual life, 7. Teachings, which outlines the salient points of doctrine and basic creedal affirmations, 8. Spirituality, which discusses the meaning of theosis as the goal of Christian life, 9. History, which sketches the great epochs of Orthodoxy, and 10. The Church, which outlines the procedures for becoming a member of the Orthodox Church.

Becoming an Orthodox Christian is a process. There is no “one rule fits all” as for the time required and the amount of learning one must undergo to become a member of the Church. For some, it’s a matter of a few months; for others, a few years. But, the overwhelming consensus of those who join the Church is they feel fulfillment, they feel joy, they feel this Faith is the true Faith. The Faith we have inherited is a treasure, indeed, open to all who seek Truth. As St. Paul

reminds us in his first letter to Timothy (1 Timothy 2:3-4), “God...desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.” By the way, you don’t have to be non-Orthodox to benefit from Alex’s class or the articles available on www.goarch.org. Do you have a few minutes? Do you have access to the Internet? We invite you to log on. You will be glad you did.



Bless the hands that have prepared this food.



Thank God for our Young Adults!

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, March 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.

Y2 AM Ministry Plan **Y2am.org/Ministry Plan**

(In case you haven’t already done so, log on to the link, above.)



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 the schedule of the remaining games in the 2018 Junior Varsity season, for your perusal:



Young Adults

A number of our Young Adults participated in the Young Adult Winter Retreat, which took place February 16-19, 2018 (President's Day Weekend) in South Lake Tahoe, NV. Other opportunities for Young Adults are as follows:

METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT SPRING RETREAT

April 27-29, 2018

St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA

METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT CAMPING TRIP

August 31-September 3, 2018 (Labor Day Weekend)

Near Chico, CA

METROPOLIS YOUNG ADULT FALL RETREAT

October 12-14, 2018

St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center, Dunlap, CA



The Cathedral Young Adults are responsible for starting the Soup Kitchen (now Community Kitchen). While others come and volunteer, it is the Young Adults who are spearheading this ministry. After everything is cleaned up, the Young Adults convene in the second-floor conference room for fellowship and discussion, over wine and cheese. A recent discussion took place around the Great Schism of 1054, ecumenical efforts in recent times, and the Great and Holy Council, which took place last year on the island of Crete.

Sunday, March 4th

at Annunciation

2:00	BES	St. Gregory	Holy Cross
3:00	BMS	St. Nicholas	Holy Cross
4:00	BMS	Resurrection	Annunciation
5:00	BES	Annunciation	St. Nicholas 1

at Holy Trinity

2:00	GMS	Holy Cross	St. Gregory
3:00	BES	Holy Trinity	St. Nicholas 2
4:00	BMS	Holy Trinity	Ascension

at Ascension

2:00	BES	Ascension 1	Ascension 2
3:00	GES	St. Nicholas	Ascension
4:00	GMS	St. Nicholas	Ascension

Sunday, March 11th

at Ascension

3:00	BES	Ascension 1	St. Gregory
4:00	GMS	St. Gregory	Ascension
5:00	BMS	Ascension	Annunciation

at Annunciation (moved to Holy Cross)

3:00	BMS	Holy Trinity	Holy Cross
4:00	BES	Holy Trinity	Holy Cross
5:00	BES	Ascension 2	Annunciation

at St. Nicholas (San Jose)

2:00	BMS	St. Gregory	St. Nicholas
3:00	GES	Holy Cross	St. Nicholas
4:00	GMS	Holy Cross	St. Nicholas
5:00	BES	St. Nicholas 1	St. Nicholas 2

Saturday, March 17th - Playoffs - @ Annunciation

Sunday, March 18th – Championships

at Annunciation

2:00	- GES
3:00	- BES
4:00	- GMS
5:00	- BMS



Summer Camp Update (yes, summer camp!)

Count the 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

GOYA News

Please note the following retreats:

BAY AREA GOYA LENTEN RETREAT

March 9-11, 2018

Hosted by Holy Cross in Belmont, and held at a retreat center in the Marin Headlands

For Goyans grades 6-12th

More Information: <http://gosfyouth.org/bay-area-goya-lenten-retreat>

Questions: frtom@goholycross.org

BAY AREA GOYA LENTEN RETREAT 2018

All Northern California Goyans, grades 6th-12th, are invited to join the Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont as they host the Bay Area GOYA Lenten Retreat at the NatureBridge Retreat Center in the Marin Headlands, March 9-11, 2018.

DATE: March 9-11, 2018

LOCATION: NaturBridge Retreat Center in the Marin Headlands

PRICE: \$195

AGES: For Orthodox Youth, 6th grade - 12th grade

HOSTED BY: Holy Cross, Belmont

REGISTRATION & MORE INFO: www.gosfyouth.org

QUESTIONS: Fr. Tom Felactu at frtom@goholycross.org

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.**



Dance Group News

Once again, we extend congratulations to our groups for their recent performances at FDF. The groups are:

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

Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 2nd-4th grade in Fall 2017

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, 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

We will be holding a parent-dancers forum the latter part of March. If you are interested in the program, we invite you to contact Lea Lyberopoulos, karthia808@yahoo.com



Sunday School News

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

~Saint Theophan the Recluse

Sunday school has resumed, beginning January 21st. On the third Sunday of every month, we hold a music class for PK - 6th grades and, on the fourth Sunday for 7th to 12th grades. The classes take place in the conference room on the second floor. Meanwhile, we are planning to participate in the St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival. Below is the schedule of district schedules, as well as the Metropolis Oratorical Festival. The winner of the Metropolis Oratorical Festival goes on to participate at the Archdiocese Level. Last year, the winner of the Archdiocese Oratorical Festival came from the Metropolis of San Francisco. Who knows? Perhaps, one day, that person can be a one of our students at the Annunciation Cathedral.

Pacific Northwest District Festival:

Holy Trinity, Portland, OR - April 15, 2018

Bay Area District Festival:

Holy Cross, Belmont, CA - April 22, 2018

Eastern California District Festival:

Annunciation, Modesto, CA - April 22, 2018

Southern California District Festival:

Assumption, Long Beach, CA - April 22, 2018

Southwest District Festival:

Holy Trinity, Phoenix, AZ - April 22, 2018

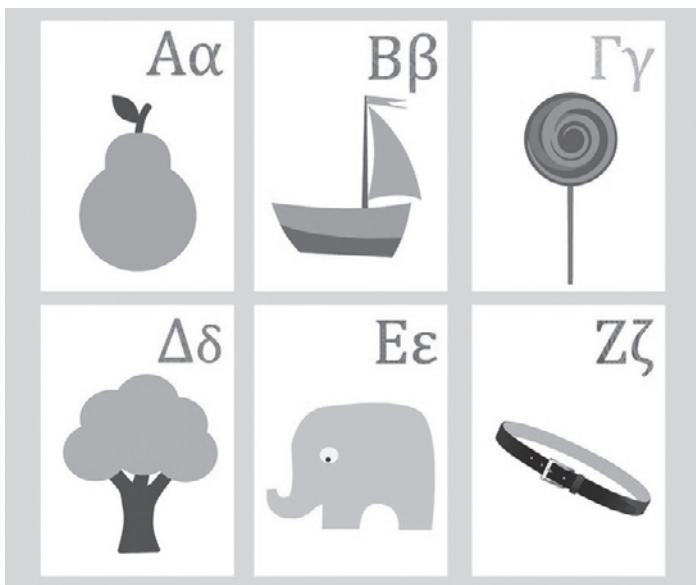
Metropolis Oratorical Festival:

St. Nicholas Ranch, Dunlap, CA - May 5, 2018



Find us on:
facebook®

'Like' Annunciation Cathedral Sunday School!



Greek School News

Classes are in full swing. We are proud of all of our students.

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 Greek school for your children, please contact Anthi Janssens at anthigj@gmail.com. Thank you. Occasionally, we have requests about an Adult Greek class. If you are interested, likewise, please contact Anthi Janssens at anthigj@gmail.com.

Ἄγγελος πρωστοστάτης οὐρανόθεν
ἐπέμφθη εἰπεῖν τῇ Θεοτόκῳ τὸ Χαῖρε·
καὶ σὺν τῇ ἀσωμάτῳ φωνῇ σωματούμενον
σε θεωρῶν, Κύριε, ἐξίστατο καὶ ἴστατο
κραυγάζων πρὸς αὐτὴν τοιαῦτα:
Χαῖρε, δι' ἧς ἡ χαρὰ ἐκλάμψει· χαῖρε, δι' ἧς
ἡ ἀρὰ ἐκλείψει.

Χαῖρε, τοῦ πεσόντος Ἀδάμ ἡ ἀνάκλησις·
χαῖρε, τῶν δακρῶν τῆς Εὐας ἡ λύτρωσις.

Χαῖρε, ὕψος δυσανάβατον ἀνθρωπίνοις
λογισμοῖς· χαῖρε, βάθος δθσθεώρητον καὶ
Ἀγγέλων ὀφθαλμοῖς.

Χαῖρε, ὅτι ὑπάρχεις Βασιλέως καθέδρα·
χαῖρε, ὅτι βασιτάζεις τὸν βασιτάζοντα
πάντα.

Χαῖρε, ἀστήρ ἐμφαίνων τὸν Ἥλιον· χαῖρε,
γαστήρ ἐνθέου σαρκώσεως.

Χαῖρε, δι' ἧς νεουργεῖται ἡ κτίσις· χαῖρε,
δι' ἧς βρεφουργεῖται ὁ Κτίστης.
Χαῖρε, Νύμφη ἀνύμφευτε.



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.

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 March is as follows:

- March 4 - Group 1
- March 11 - Group 2
- March 18 - Group 3
- March 25 - Group 4

Please note, we also have Salutations services every Friday night, namely, March 2, March 9, March 16 and March 23. On Friday, March 30, we will have the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified. It would be good if a few altar boys would serve on those evenings.

Our altar groups are as follows:

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

Antonio Pete Bissas son of Pete Bissas and Maria Barbra Fuentes Bissas, was baptized on January 27. His sponsors are Kosta Koutoulas and Chrisoula Koutoulas.

Na Mas Zisi! Long Life!

Funerals

James P. Dariotes, who fell asleep on 23, was buried February 1. He is survived by his brother, Harry Dariotes.

Mary Morris, who fell asleep in the Lord on February 16, was buried February 22. She is survived by her daughter, Helen Arzimanoglou and her family.

Anastasia Jouganatos, who fell asleep in the Lord on February 18, was buried February 26. She is survived by her daughter, Paulette Pastor, and her family.

Aionia I Mnimi. Eternal Memory!

Condolences

The Cathedral extends deepest sympathies to the family of Dionysios Evangelatos, who recently fell asleep in the Lord. A Trisagion was held here. The burial took place in Greece.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
					Salutations, 7 pm	Greek School 10 am
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Philoptochos, 12:30 pm Basketball Games, 2 pm			Basketball practice 7 pm	Basketball practice 7 pm	Salutations, 7 pm	Greek School 10 am
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am			Basketball practice 7 pm	Basketball practice 7 pm	Salutations, 7 pm	Greek School 10 am
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Parish Council 12:30 pm JV Championships, 2 p.m. Godparent's Sunday		Community Kitchen, 6:30 pm Young Adult Get-Together 8:00 pm	Basketball practice 7 pm	Basketball practice 7 pm	Great Vespers (Feast of the Annunciation), 7 p.m., Followed by dinner Akathist, 7 pm	Greek School 10 am
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am March 25th Luncheon			Basketball practice 7 pm		Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 6:30 p.m.	Saturday of Lazarus, Divine Liturgy 10 a.m., followed by Palm-Tying



This icon is one of many used to signify the Feast of the Annunciation. Celebrated 9 months, to the day, before Christmas, the Feast commemorates the announcement by the Archangel Gabriel to Mary that she would become the Bearer of God. This is precisely what the term “Theotokos” means—the one who carries God in her womb, and who gives birth in the Flesh to the one who is God. This particular icon was “written” (that’s what we do, we don’t “paint” icons, but we “write” them) by Dr. George Kordis, Professor of Iconography at the University of Athens, and Iconographer for the new Annunciation Cathedral. The icon, having been “written,” tells us precisely what we find in so many places in Scripture: 1. That Mary was visited by the Archangel, 2. That the Archangel told her she had found favor with God, 3. That God selected her to bear the Son, 4. And that Mary replied, “Be it done unto me according to your world,” after she protested, saying, how could she bear a child, she’s not married. The Archangel assured her that she would be overshadowed by the Most High, i.e. that God would give her a child in spite of her virginity. This is why she is called Virgin, as prophesied by Isaiah. Notice, the Virgin is spinning at the time. Notice, she’s also dressed in a kind of murky dark red-blue color. This was the color of the covering on the Ark of the Covenant, signifying that, now, Mary herself becomes the Ark of the Covenant, containing the Word of God. Icons have their place in our worship both in that they remind us of the realities being portrayed and also they are a kind of “visual Scripture.” No wonder the Church fought so hard to maintain what the earliest Christians did, which was to utilize all senses to an understanding of the Word of God.