



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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NOVEMBER 2017



## Honoring Patricia Aleck December 3

It is customary for the immediate past president of the Ladies Philoptochos to be honored, at the conclusion of her service as President (as it is also custom for the immediate past president of the Parish Council to be so honored). Our Ladies Philoptochos will honor Pat with a pre-Christmas fête, on Sunday, December 3. As we will be in the preparation period for the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord, the hall will be “dressed up” for Christmas. The theme of the event is JOY. Joy as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Joy as we celebrate the spirit of service and generosity, which Pat embodies. Her love for her Church and her life-long dedication to the Cathedral—as Parish Council member, as Stewardship chair, as Parish Council President, as Philoptochos member and as Philoptochos President. A lifetime of devoted service! The event will benefit the Building Fund. We’re sure you will not want to miss it.

Meanwhile, members of the JOY: Honoring Patricia Aleck Steering Committee include: Vivian Curd, Liberty Nuris, Meena Vellis, and Presbytera Aliki Kyriacou. Jan Petrou and Valerie Roumeliotes are Co-Chairs. Grace Koutoulas is Reservations Chair. Concurrently with this Herald, you should also be receiving a separate invitation by mail. The meal will be a sit-down luncheon, followed by a musical interlude and, of course, presentation of our honoree. The donation is \$40 per person, with a discounted amount for children. All proceeds will benefit the Building Fund. Do plan on joining Philoptochos and the entire parish, as we usher in the joyful Christmas season, honor Pat, and support our rebuilding of the Cathedral.

## Festival 2017: Remembrances, with Thanksgiving

With so much sadness around us (we refer to Last Vegas, to the Napa Fires, and to the wave of hurricanes), we are grateful for cherished friendships, for community building, for relationships. They are occasions for thanksgiving, both because they validate what we are called to do as the Church—to proclaim the Good News—and because they strengthen us as we continue to build bridges, help others, and lay the groundwork for the future, both for our community, and for the world, generally. This is at the heart of the time-honored event known as the annual festival. Following are a number of photos taken during this year’s festival.

They are offered as remembrances, with much thanksgiving.

### Fellowship



### Teamwork



### And having Fun!



### Good Friends



### Greetings



### Dancing as Communion



more photos next page

# 2017 GREEK FOOD FESTIVAL



*My Offering*



*Special Visitors*



*I won!*



*Isidoros and Maria Garifalakis recently visited the Cathedral and viewed the progress. They are the donors of all the rebar steel used throughout the foundation concrete. It's generosity like this, and generosity like yours, that is making the rebuilding of the Cathedral possible.*



A panorama of photographs of the festival is available by clicking on the following link: <http://www.kostasphotography.com/Client-Galleries/San-Francisco-Greek-Food-Festival-2017/n-G5mPjw/> You may download individual photos or the entire gallery. We gratefully acknowledge the efforts of Kostas Petrakos of [kostasphotography.com](http://www.kostasphotography.com)

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## Building Update: In the Home Stretch for the Exterior!

Getting there and, quite honestly, we can't wait for it to finish. However, with the current building boom in San Francisco, the Contractor has been experiencing difficulty getting subs to do the work. We're in the home stretch, though for, given the challenges of getting workers and coming up with the money to pay our contractor, we are, nevertheless, nearing completion of the exterior. We are also about a month away from receiving a Conditional Use Permit to enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. As for the interior: we hope to begin the upper interior wall installation going by the end of the year. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. As noted, some \$4 million is still needed to complete and furnish the interior of the Cathedral. To date, we've had a successful capital campaign, which raised some \$6 million. Of this, we have only about \$600,000 in outstanding pledges. As we collect these pledges, we will be able to our current obligations and continue the work so as to complete our magnificent, future house of worship. Meanwhile, those who have made gifts or who have pledged and who have completed their pledges, are invited to consider making an additional gift. This will be helpful to the project. At the same time, it will benefit them, inasmuch as all gifts are fully tax deductible to the extent allowed by law, and tax deductions may be taken for gifts made in calendar year 2017. If you wish to discuss this with someone, we invite you to speak with Tom Nuris, our Capital Campaign Committee Chair, or Father Stephen, our Dean: [fatherstephen@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org).



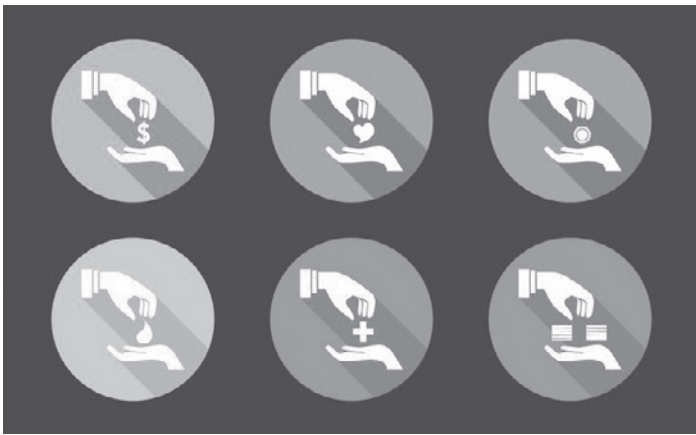
*Visitors from Sweden.*



## A Mural on the Back Wall

A mural on the Stevenson Street wall, shown above, got considerable attention when it was printed in the September 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 will engage the artists and oversee the work. We're very excited. The work will cost about \$30,000. We are looking for a "godparent," i.e. someone to underwrite

the cost of doing the mural. Surely, someone out there would like to "adopt" this project, knowing that you not only helped the Cathedral thwart graffiti behind the new Cathedral by putting up a mural, some 90 feet wide by 12 feet tall, but that you are making a significant artistic contribution to the City of San Francisco. As one can readily see, the mural shows another, much older City, located on original Golden Gate! We're referring, of course, to the 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. For further information, please call Father Stephen, [fatherstephen@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org).



## Would You Consider Donating \$1 Million? (Redux)

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

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

## Or Lending the Cathedral \$1 Million?

The above paragraph suggests there are people in the Greek Orthodox community who are in a position to making a significant monetary contribution towards the rebuilding of the Cathedral (and there are). Recently, a suggestion was made that 4 to 6 people lend the Cathedral \$1 million each—interest free—, so as to enable the rebuilding to continue, but also, to enable the Cathedral to save the \$22,000 a month it’s paying the Bank, in interest alone! This could be a win-win for all. Those who may wish to consider this kind of assistance are invited to discuss this first with their financial planners and advisors. The potential is there. And the time for us to do something about it is now.

## Making Good on/Paying Off Your Building Fund Pledge

Our Capital Campaign was undertaken in good faith, for the purpose of rebuilding the Cathedral. At the time, the Cathedral, together with its underground parking component, was estimated to cost a total \$14 million, about \$10.9 for the exterior and about \$3.1 for the interior. And, we approached our parishioners and friends, and you responded generously. Some of you made a one-time payment; others made a 5-year pledge. Most of those who made a 5-year pledge have made good on your pledge and we thank you. This has enabled us to break ground and get to the point where we are now. Yes, there have been a few glitches along the way, like when lead was found in the soil, like when it was discovered the neighboring property slightly encroached on ours. But, we overcame these delays. And then there were cost overruns. And the monthly interest from the Bank, to the tune of \$22,000. And the annual balloon payment, to the tune of \$400,000. (We barely made it this year, but we were able to pay it.) Now, our Capital Campaign fund is down to its last \$100,000 and here we have a total of about \$600,000 outstanding on Capital Campaign pledges. It’s really a no-brainer. Our Parish Council has been charged with the responsibility of reaching out to those with outstanding balances, asking them to consider accelerating their payments, if possible, or, in the case of those whose payments have fallen behind, to make good on their pledges. This will enable us to go on in earnest to complete the outside of the building, so that we can utilize the courtyard, and also begin using the parking component. By now, those with outstanding pledges have been contacted by a member of the Parish. We thank you for the courtesy you afforded them and also for making arrangements to complete your gift.

*Taken from The Life of the Virgin: Birth and Childhood by St. Maximus the Confessor. Chapter 7:*

*Behold how beautifully the Psalmist foretells not only about the Presentation in the Temple [the Feast which we celebrate on November 21], but also about the Theotokos’ other spiritual goodness and beauty. “The queen stood at your right” (Psalm 44:10). This statement foretells her Presentation in the Temple and her location to the right of the altar in the Holy of Holies, which is truly regarded as being to the right of God.*



## Parking: Just a Few Days to Go

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

This parking arrangement with the lot behind the Cathedral is about to end, as our own parking structure gets up and running. As previously noted, we intend to have a third-party operator run our lot, which will be available to the public when not in use by the church. For this, a conditional use permit is required. We are waiting for approval from the City Planning Department to enable us to proceed. We had noted the hearing for this will take place the first week in October. However, the Planning Department informed us, as this issue of the Herald was going to press, that the hearing will, in fact, take place in November. Please pray that the hearing goes well. This is the second of four steps we need to take before we are able to access the parking component. The third step is the inspection of the elevator, which has, at last, been installed and finalization of a clear path of travel, enabling people who park in the lot to surface, by elevator or by stairs, into the lobby and to proceed either to the offices, classrooms and community center via the covered archway, or through the gate and onto Valencia Street .

*The Psalmist relates the adornment of the Theotokos' virtues, how beautiful she was, and that "she was adorned with a gold-woven robe of many colors and dressed with diverse adornment" (Psalm 44:10). For he said all of this regarding her spiritual adornment: although he says "gold-woven," all of her many-hued virtues are nevertheless foretold, which individually are beautiful and magnificent. But when they are added to each other and united, as they were collected in the blessed soul of the immaculate Virgin, their surpassing beauty is even greater. That is why he says "with diverse adornment," that is to say an adornment of good works and godly thoughts in complete accord with the will of God her savior.*

## Sunday OIKOS Lecture Series News

We began our Lecture series in January this year with a talk by Dr. Katina Kostoulas, a clinical psychologist and member of our Parish Council, and head of OIKOS, on The Role of the Family in the Spiritual Development of Children. In March, we heard from a group of educators, headed by Dr. Barbara Karvelis, on the group's experiences working with Syrian and other refugees in Lesbos Greece. We are very sensitive to the situation there, in view of the present economy of Greece, and we are not interested in engaging in politics. Just to be of help, as the local authorities decide.

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

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

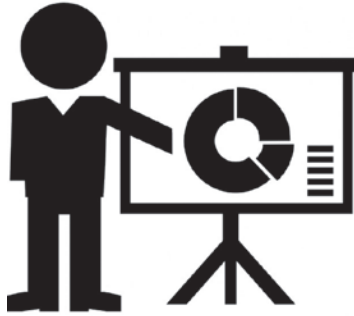
At the same time, we are hoping to self-publish the talks which will have been presented since the inception of the program. In addition to the above, we have had talks on parenting, the Theology of St. Maximos the Confessor, the Prayer Rope, as well as Byzantine Chanting. The lectures are about 20 to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

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## Introduction to Orthodoxy

### Introduction to Orthodoxy" Class Welcomes New Members to the Faith

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



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

The Cathedral's "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 November the class will meet on November 5 and November 12 and in December on December 3 and December 10. The class meets in the conference room on the second floor, beginning at 9 a.m.

*As the vault of heaven that appears in the clouds is one in substance and name, and multi-colored and ornate in appearance, so also the immaculate Virgin was from a young age diversely adorned with ineffable adornments of virtue. And as she grew in age, the adornment of virtues increased greatly. And that is why "the king desired her beauty" (Psalm 44:12), and he dwelt within her.*



## Stewardship

*a way of life*

### What's the Big Deal About Stewardship?

Well, it is a big deal because this is how we support the Church. We make an annual pledge to support the Church's programs and ministries. We do so in accordance with our means. We do so commensurate with our faith. If we believe in the work of the Church, we give. If we don't, we don't give, or we give nominally. We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2017, so far, is shaping up to be the highest in recent history. Which means the faith of our parishioners is strong, that you want to see the Cathedral strong and thriving. Hopefully, this trend continues throughout 2017. As of September, 306 of our 350 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), have sent in their 2017 Stewardship pledge, which totals \$282,668, so far, for the support of the Cathedral's ministries. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the Cathedral operating, the level of support is promising. The average pledge amount has increased over recent years and that is a testimony to your commitment. The average pledge amount for 2016 was \$845 (as compared to \$782 in 2013). As of this writing, it is \$924. With this level of support, it looks like we will exceed our Stewardship goal of \$300,000. We thank you for your continued support, your love for the Lord and His people, and your unwavering dedication to the Annunciation Cathedral. God bless you.



## Cathedral Gears Up for 2018 Stewardship Campaign

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

Your 2018 stewardship packets should be arriving mid-November. Here’s what we would like you to do: 1. We would like you to read through the material, and THEN fill out and return the card, pledging whatever you can for 2018 (the amount is not important; what is important is that whatever you pledge, it is from your heart: it reflects what the Church means to you. Then, 2. We would like to you encourage your children (if they are 18 or over), as well as your relatives and friends, to ALSO read through the materials and make THEIR OWN Stewardship pledge to support the work of the Church. Let’s become passionate about the work of the Church. Let’s share our faith!

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2013	2015	2016	2017	LAST MONTH/THIS MONTH
Number of Pledges	322	351	343	306	299/306
Pledged Dollars	\$251,670	\$299,637	\$289,989	\$282,668	\$275,278/\$282,668
Outstanding Balances 2017				\$52,106	\$62,849/\$52,106
Average Pledge	\$782.00	\$854.00	\$845	\$924.00	\$921/\$924
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above				117	113/117**
Number of pledges between 601 and 999				31	29/31
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below				158	156/158
Number of individual 2016 pledges that have not pledged for 2017 to date				71	76/71

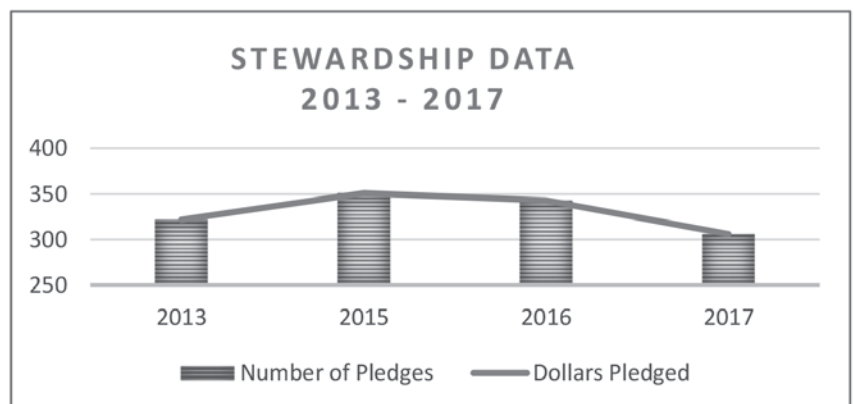
Period ending Aug 31, 2017

\*\*38% of Total Pledges

### % Change TY/LY to Date

Number of Pledges	-2%
Pledged Dollars	2.6%
Average Pledge	5.0%

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

*Today is the foreshadowing of the good pleasure of God and the herald of the salvation of men. The Virgin is revealed in the temple of God, and beforehand she announces Christ to all. Let us therefore cry to her with mighty voice: Hail! Thou fulfilment of the Creator's dispensation.*

– Apolytikion of the Feast of the Entry of the Most Holy Theotokos (November 21)



### Festival 2017: Thanks all Around

Sold Out? Yes! It's because of your help that this year's Pastry Sale at the Festival was such a success. Please accept our sincere thanks to all the ladies, friends, and families who volunteered. We are most blessed to have individuals such as you, who are willing to give their time and effort for our Cathedral's major fundraiser. You've made an important contribution, whether the work you did was behind the scenes or on the front line, serving. You made it happen: Sold Out! On behalf of our Annunciation Philoptochos ladies, we would like to extend a sincere thank you to the following: Polytimi Peters for the donation of Paximadia and the Karidopita. To Terpsi Varanis for the donation of Cretan Koulourakia. To Sotiria Panagiotopoulos for the donation of Kataifi. A special salute goes to Philoptochos lady Grace Koutoulas, to Chris Kyriacou and to Deno Konstantinidis for achieving a successful festival.

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### Hurricane, Earthquake, and Now Fire Relief Efforts Continue

Annunciation Philoptochos, in partnership with IOCC, is continuing to help with Health & School Kits for those in need from disaster and devastation.

We are in need of a number of items in order to complete the kits, by Sunday, November 12

People have been asking, "How can I help?" We are outlining two kit options, listed below. One is a health kit, and the second is a school kit.

#### Options 1.

##### Individual Health Kit Items:

- Hand towel
- Wash cloth
  
- Comb
- Metal nail clipper
- Wash soap
- Tooth brush
- Band aids

#### Option 2.

##### Individual School Kit Items:

- Blunt scissors
- 3 spiral notebook
- 70-count 200 pgs
- 12 inch ruler
- Pencil sharpener: Hand-held
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One large eraser
- One box of 24 crayons

You may select one or more of the items for either option 1 or option 2 or, if you prefer, you may put together an entire kit, as option 3. In any case, place the items in a one-gallon size zip lock bag and bring the bag to the Annunciation Cathedral, Attn: Philoptochos/Mariam Arsinoos, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103.

For questions and additional information please contact Mariam Arsinoos at: 415-864-000 or [mariamannunciation@gmail.com](mailto:mariamannunciation@gmail.com).



### Waiting for the New School: Millennium School

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

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

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



## All Events Calendar on the Web Site!

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



*Bless those who serve!*



*Bless us all!*



*Some 100 guests at our September Community Kitchen.*

## 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, Community Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, November 21 (Feast of the Entry of the Theotokos to the Temple). Last month, our Young Adults were joined by members of our GOYA, under the direction of Matia Kostakis. In November, they are being joined by members of the Holy Trinity parish.

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## YOUTH NEWS

### GOYA News

We learn, we pray, and we play. It is GOYA's intention to have one activity of each month. Matia Kostakis, our GOYA Advisor, invites both participation and ideas for activities. The following dates have been designated as GOYA activity dates. If you have ideas for some of these, please pass them along and we can work out a plan for each. Also, there has been a request to have GOYA help with the Mother's Day brunch. This will be a first!

#### Here the dates so far:

**Sunday**, November 5th, 3pm - Thanksgiving Activity at church (ideas?)

**Sunday**, December 10th 3:30pm - Christmas Activity (Ideas?)

**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.



### Bay Area GOYA is BACK this November 4-5, 2017! Spread the word!

Join Bay Area Goyans 6th-12th grade for a Lock-in hosted at Ascension Cathedral in Oakland!

This event begins on Saturday November 4th at 6:00pm and will conclude Sunday November 5th after Liturgy (12:00pm).

Make sure to pack a sleeping bag, pillow, sleeping pad or air mattress, clothes for Sunday Divine Liturgy, and come dressed Saturday evening in your favorite decade clothes!

RSVP: <https://www.ascensioncathedral.com/lock-in/>  
Parish carpooling is recommended.

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## Sunday School News

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

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

We've planned an exciting year. Coming up, on December 17, we will hold our Christmas Pageant. Moving on to March, we will celebrate the great feast of the Annunciation, which is also the Feast Day of our Cathedral Parish. Godparent's

Sunday, which normally takes place the Sunday before Palm Sunday, will, instead, take place on Sunday, March 18, because the Annunciation falls on the Sunday prior to Palm Sunday. Then, of course, will hold TGI Pascha on Holy and Great Friday, April 6. We will not hold classes on Pascha, April 8, and we will end the school year on Sunday, June 3.

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



## Dance Group News

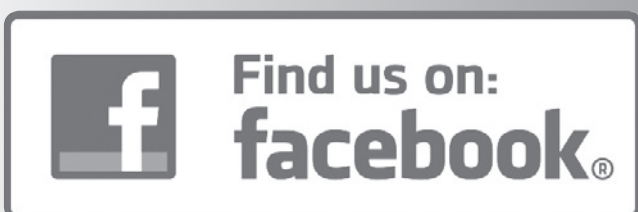
### Greek Dancing in the heart of San Francisco

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

The members of the Annunciation dance family are thrilled this year to represent the Cathedral in our home town for the 42nd annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival (FDF), which will take place January 11-14, 2018 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco, CA! One third

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

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



'Like' Annunciation Cathedral Sunday School!

### 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.)

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

Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

**Revmata:** 2nd-4th grade in Fall 2017

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Trina Misthos and Eleni Taptelis

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

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

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

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

### FDF information

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

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

Instagram and Twitter @yourfdf

Snapchat @Your\_FDF

- Your 2018 FDF Management Team and FDF Board of Trustees **Hotel Room Reservation Information**

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

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

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

NB: Adult Group in the Making

Σήμερον τῆς εὐδοκίας Θεοῦ  
τὸ προοίμιον καὶ τῆς τῶν  
ἀνθρώπων σωτηρίας ἡ  
προκήρυξις· ἐν ναῶ τοῦ Θεοῦ  
τρανώς ἡ παρθένος δείκνυται  
καὶ τὸν Χριστὸν τοῖς πᾶσι  
προκαταγγέλεται. Αὐτῇ καὶ  
ἡμεῖς μεγαλοφώνως βοήσωμεν.  
Χαίρε, τῆς οἰκονομίας τοῦ  
κτίστου ἡ ἐκπλήρωσις.  
(Ἀπολυτίκιον. Ἦχος Δ΄.)

## Greek School News

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

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

## 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 (Stelios in Altar)

Dean Nicolacakis

#### Team #2 (Second Sunday Please)

Paul Sogotis

(Panayioti & Yianni in Altar)

George Ambus

(Christopher in Altar)

Katina Kostoulas

#### Team #3

Nicholas Rally

(Demetri in Altar)

Nicholas Svetcoff

Chris Ramos

#### Team #4

Manoli Nuris

(Mathew in Altar)

Vasiliki Moulas

George Gavros

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

Philoptchos members and other members of the community are invited to participate, as well. Please speak to Paul Sogotis, our "chief of protocol," and indicate your willingness to be a part of the pangari team.

## 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](mailto: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 NOVEMBER is as follows:

November 5 - Group 2  
November 12 - Group 3  
November 19 - Group 4  
November 26 - Group 1

#### 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](mailto:erz.raptiszarou@gmail.com)

## Sacraments and Services

### Baptism

Elektra Dionysia, daughter of George Comninos and Maria Moraitis Comninos, was baptized at the Cathedral on October 1. Her Sponsors are Petros and Liza (Elisavet) Karasakalidis.

*Na Mas Zisi! (Long Life!)*

### Funeral

Xanthi Avdalas, who fell asleep in the Lord on September 26, was buried October 3. She is survived by her brother, Fanis Lolas, and her sons, George and Konstantino (Dean) and their families.

*Aionia I Mnimi! (Eternal Memory!)*

### Condolences

The Cathedral extends condolences to the family of George Anagnostou: his wife Kitsy, his sons John, Gus, and Sam, his daughters Sue and Jeanie and their families, including their spouses and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, as well as his brother Chris and sister Dorothy. George fell asleep in the Lord on September 19.

The Cathedral also extends condolences to the family of Billie Saleavouris, who fell asleep in the Lord on September 30. She is survived by her daughter Sofia and her family, by her nieces and nephews and their families, and by her partner, Frank Lembi.

The Cathedral extends condolences, as well, to family of Michael Angelo Delegeane, who fell asleep in the Lord on August 25, namely, to his wife, Pauline, their children, Angelo, Vicki, and Terry, by his grandchildren and other relatives.

*Aionia I Mnimi! (Eternal Memory!)*

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
			Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Dance practice, 6:15 p.m.	Greek School 10 a.m. Dance Practice, 12:30 p.m.
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Dance Practice 12:30 p.m. Philoptochos 12:30 p.m.		Young Adult Dance Practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Dance practice, 6:15 p.m.	Greek School 10 a.m. Dance Practice, 12:30 p.m.
<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
Introduction to Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Dance Practice 12:30 p.m. OIKOS Lecture		Young Adult Dance Practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Dance practice, 6:15 p.m.	Greek School 10 a.m. Dance Practice, 12:30 p.m.
<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Dance Practice 12:30 p.m. Parish Council 12:30 p.m.		Entry of the Theotokos, Liturgy 10 a.m. Community Kitchen 6:30 p.m. Young Adult Dance Practice 7 p.m. Young Adult Get-Together 8:30 p.m.		Thanksgiving Day, Liturgy 10 a.m.		
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Dance Practice 12:30 p.m.		Young Adult Dance Practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.		



UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION  
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL  
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