



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

SEPTEMBER 2017

**SAN FRANCISCO'S ONLY
GREEK FOOD
FESTIVAL 2017**

**OPEN DURING
CONSTRUCTION!**

**SEPTEMBER 22.23.24
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
ANNUNCIATION.ORG**

IMAGE COURTESY OF SCOTT PAGE DESIGN · SCOTTPAGEDESIGN.COM

It's Festival Time: September 22, 23, 24

Everything's a go for our annual Greek Food Festival, which will take place on our grounds at 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, this year, on Friday, September 22 (12 noon to 10 pm), Saturday, September 23 (12 noon to 10 pm), and Sunday, September 24 (12 noon to 8 pm). Food preparation is about half done (the rest will be done in September—please refer to the calendar—and some, like the salata, will be done during the course of the festival itself). We want to thank you for your support in the preparation stage and look forward to your participation in the execution stage. Thank you for your support of the Festival Book, as it brings in HALF of the revenue of the Festival itself! (Nearly \$50,000 has been raised to date). We are also grateful for your sponsorship support, which helps underwrite the cost of the ingredients used for the food. Within two weeks of the sending out the sponsorship forms, all of the food items were underwritten! We applaud your spirit and generosity. That's what Annunciation is all about! Now, on to the Festival, where you will savor Greek food, including glyka (sweets), and enjoy dancing, both by viewing the Cathedral's and other Bay Area dance groups, and by dancing yourselves to the music of DJ Levendopedo on Friday and Helios Greek Band Saturday and Sunday. We are looking forward to sharing of our faith and our cultural heritage.



The Cathedral Welcomes the New Consul General of Greece

The Cathedral welcomes the new Consul General of Greece to San Francisco, Ambassador Antonios Sgouropoulos, and his family. In the City barely a week, the new Consul General and his family were luncheon guests of Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. Afterwards, they toured the new Cathedral under construction. Shown above, with His Eminence, are, left to right, Tamara Jovanovic Sgouropoulos, wife of the Consul General, and their twin children, Jelena and Dimitri. On August 15, the Feast of the Dormition, the new Consul General participated in the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral and attended a luncheon following, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. His Excellency addressed the congregation, expressing his joy over his new assignment, as well as his looking forward to the completion of the new Cathedral. His previous assignments include Tampa, Florida and New York City. Καλώς ωρίσατε. Welcome!



Building Update: Getting there!

Getting there and, quite honestly, we can't wait for it to finish. However, with the current building boom in San Francisco, the Contractor is having trouble getting subs to do the work. We're in the home stretch, though. We are, however, 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 wall installation by the end of 2017. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. Some \$4 million is needed for the interior. Those with outstanding pledge balances are being asked to make good on your pledges by the end of 2017. We have about \$600,000 in outstanding pledges. Statements will be going out this week, to be followed up by a phone call by a member of the Parish Council, in early September. Do join in and let's finish what we've undertaken to do, that is, to rebuild our church and make firm our presence as a Greek Orthodox house of worship in the heart of our Great City. In this way, we will be answering the call by God to Moses, when he said "Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you." (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν). (Exodus 25:8). When everything is completed, we will be able to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God. More than likely, this will take place to coincide with our 100th anniversary, in 2021. Again, we can't wait for it to finish!

Taken from Volume One of The Philokalia, (Translated from the Greek and edited by G.E.H. Palmer, Philip Sherrard and Kallistos Ware), London:1983

A Monk (read: a Person) should always act as if he was going to die tomorrow; yet he should treat his body as if it was going to live for many years.

– Evagrios the Solitary, Extracts from the Texts on Watchfulness



A Mural on the Back Wall

Say, what? A mural? Yes, a mural. Recall, some time ago, we featured the graphic below and said we were giving thought to having it drawn along our entire property in the back, along Stevenson Street? The purpose of doing a mural was to thwart graffiti, which has become a perennial problem. You no sooner paint over the graffiti and, almost overnight, it reappears. 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. So, it's not as though we're reinventing the wheel. We've discussed this with a number of people involved in the creation of murals, among them Peter Misthos. He will oversee the work, gratis, and we will pay only for the work of the various artists who

will participate. And, we've altered the scope of the project. Rather than have the mural stretch over the entire property in the back (some 260 feet), we opted to do this only on the Stevenson Street side of the wall which is directly behind the new Cathedral (some 90 feet wide by 12 feet tall). The stucco being applied there will be smooth, making it easier to paint the mural. The mural will be that of another City on the Golden Gate, the City of Constantinople, stylized, as it appeared some centuries ago—the City where our Mother Church is located. Thus, the wall will be a thing of beauty (no longer a place for graffiti), and a cultural attraction. We are in the process of seeking grants for the work, as the mural is intended to be an artistic contribution not only to the Mission, but the entire City of San Francisco.

*The more the rain falls on the earth,
the softer it makes it; similarly, Christ's holy
name gladdens the earth of our heart
the more we call upon it.*

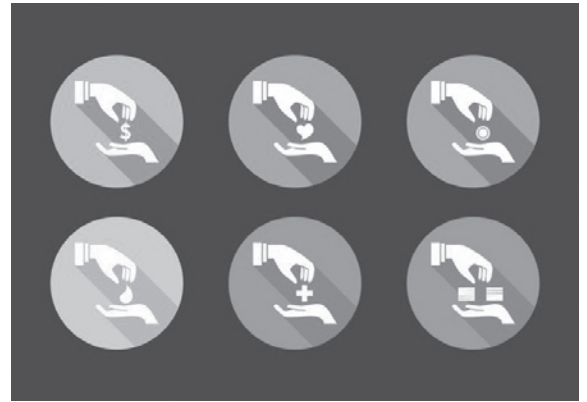
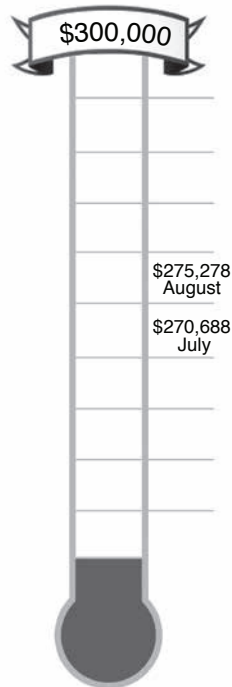
—St. Hesychios the Priest, On Watchfulness and Holiness



The Festival is all about people. It's about people doing. About people interacting. It's about building community, not only within our Greek Orthodox household, but with the neighborhood, the City, and, indeed, the world. Festival preparation, therefore, is a sacred undertaking. It's also fun. Shown above are but four of the many people who are laboring for this year's Festival: Melina Navarette, Vicky Moulas, Rose Sogotis, and Despina Poulos.

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 \$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 go ahead with the rebuilding of the Cathedral. 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 \$15,000. 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 utilizing the parking component. Please welcome the member of the Parish Council who will contact you, if you have an outstanding balance. Thank you.



Would You Consider Donating \$1 Million?

Back when Father Scott was helping us raise money to begin rebuilding the Cathedral, at one of the meetings where we were discussing holding a gala-type event, we recall his saying: "If we can get someone to donate \$1 million, that would electrify the community." He used these very words. Since then, we worked in earnest to raise the money to rebuild, and we did, in fact, raise that single donation of \$1 million. 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 individuals 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, the question, would you consider donating \$1 million?

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 Ca-

thedral are about to end, as our own parking structure get 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. The hearing for this will take place the first week in October. 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 installation of the elevator, which has, at last, occurred. We are now waiting for the appropriate inspection, the installation of gates and the finalization of a clear path of travel. Just a few days to go! Can't wait.



96 years Young! Georgia Evangelatos, Past President of the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos, turned 96 on June 24. In typical Georgia style, she invited a group of parishioner-friends out to lunch. Happy birthday, Georgia! May you live, in good health, for many more years, beyond 100, beyond even 120, after the prophet Moses. Your community extends its very best wishes.



Shown visiting the Cathedral is Metropolitan Agathangelos of Kissamos and Selino, who came to San Francisco for the Cretan Convention, which was held here the end of June, beginning of July. With the Metropolitan are Father Antonios, chancellor, Father Stephen, and Bill Ballas.

No matter what provokes it, anger blinds the soul's eyes, preventing it from seeing the Sun of righteousness.

—St John Cassian, On the Eight Vices



Sunday OIKOS Lecture Series News

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

Then, on June 11 Carl Andrew Wiener read poems which he had composed, poems entitled "For Euripides," "Of the Diktean Cave," "On the Acropolis, Looking South," and "Poor Thucydides," to name a few. On September 9, we will hear from Alexander Kozak, on the topic of "holy fools" (yes, there is such a topic!). The actual title for his talk is "Holy Fools in the Byzantine Empire." On October 8, Dr. Steven Harris will be our guest speaker. Following, we are trying to secure Professor George Kordis, the iconographer who will write the icons for our new Cathedral, is scheduled to come and speak to us prior to the end of the year, depending upon his travel schedule.

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.

Do not attempt to explain something difficult with contentiousness, but in the way which the spiritual law enjoins: with patience, prayer and unwavering hope.

—St. Mark the Ascetic, On the Spiritual Law



Congratulations, Ascension Cathedral, Oakland

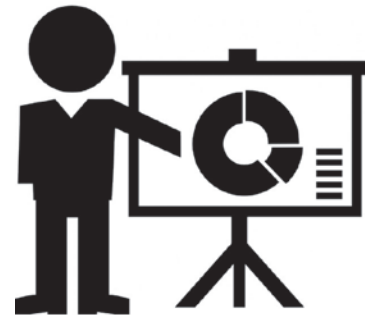
The Annunciation Cathedral extends congratulations and best wishes to the Ascension Cathedral, Oakland, which will be celebrating 100 years since their founding. A commemorative album is being produced and a celebration will take place on Saturday, October 7. For the album, please contact Carolyn Sakkis, at 925 381-5049 or Joanna Phillips, at 925 939-3900. For the celebration, please call the Ascension Cathedral, at 510 532-3400. Once again, congratulations and best wishes. Here's to the second 100 years!

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 September, it will meet on September 10 and September 17, in October on October 1 and October 22, in November 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.

What's the Big Deal About Stewardship?

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. Hopefully, this trend continues throughout 2017. As of July 31, 299 of our 350 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), have sent in their 2017 Stewardship pledge, which totals \$275,278, 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 av-

erage 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 \$921. With this level of support, it looks like we will exceed our Stewardship goal of \$300,000. We thank you for your continued support, your love for the Lord and His people, and your unwavering dedication to the Annunciation Cathedral. God bless you.

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2013	2015	2016	2017	LAST MONTH/THIS MONTH
Number of Pledges	322	351	343	299	294/299
Pledged Dollars	\$251,670	\$299,637	\$289,989	\$275,278	\$270,688/\$275,278
Outstanding Balances 2017				\$62,849	\$73,179/\$62,849
Average Pledge	\$782.00	\$854.00	\$845	\$921.00	\$921/\$921
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above				113	110/113**
Number of pledges between 601 and 999				29	28/29
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below				156	150/156
Number of individual 2016 pledges that have not pledged for 2017 to date				76	82/76

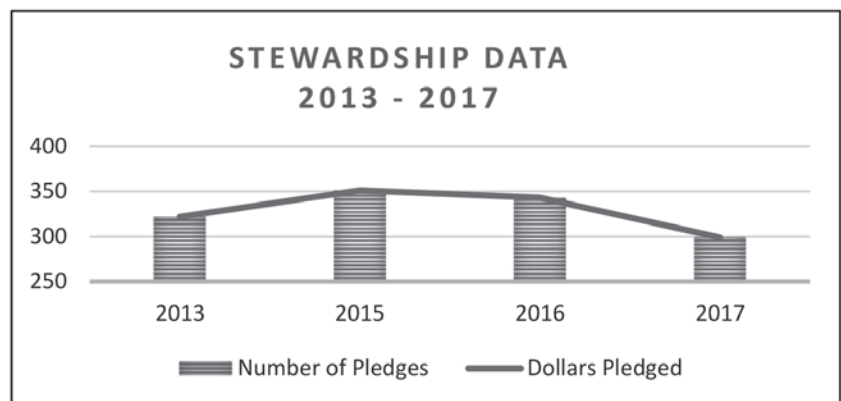
Period ending July 31, 2017

**37% of Total Pledges

% Change TY/LY to Date

Number of Pledges	-2%
Pledged Dollars	2.0%
Average Pledge	6.0%

Unique 2017 Pledges :
(no pledge 2013 - 2016)



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Save the Date

On November 5, following the Divine Liturgy, the Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos will honor Patricia Aleck, immediate past president of the Philoptochos. A luncheon will follow the Liturgy, in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall. The donation, and other particulars, will be announced in the October and November issues of the Herald, as well as in the

Sunday bulletins. This is a wonderful tradition of honoring immediate past presidents. Indeed, it is most fitting, in Pat's case, as she exemplifies the spirit of Philoptochos—always nurturing, always involved, always giving, of her time and her resources for the benefit of the community.

Ladies of Steel

His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios of America has always claimed that Philoptochos is the "Army of Women" of the church. In our community they are the "right arm" and the heart of our Parish. They are truly super heroes...And here are the "Ladies of Steel" (stainless steel that is).



Anastasia Dekaristos



Arhondo Keramari



Voula Koutoulas



Effie Makras



Elaine & Sophia Makras



Vicky Moulas



Helen Panomitros



Sotiria Panagiotopoulos



Despina Poulos



Harikila Razis



Emilia Sarikakis



Rose Sogotis



Irene Vafiadis

These ladies are exemplary of what Philoptochos stands for. They are dedicated, dependable, devoted and doers of good deeds. They would never think to seek attention or need to receive a thank you. If you ask them why they volunteer and work so hard. They would reply "Because we love our church". This group of ladies have been baking and cooking for our annual Food Festival, making sure "all that they do will be the very best" which includes a smile.

Baking this summer by lending hands to make the delectable pastries are: Annette Chiappari Despina Kokalis, Victoria Koutoulas, Aglaia Mavroudis, Melina Navarrette, Irene Poulakidas, Terpsi Varanis, Rachael Vastardis and a special appreciation to Polytimi Peters for her generosity and her home-baked pastries. We are blessed and thankful for all the other members of the San Francisco Annunciation Philoptochos Society. We welcome all new members, Please come join us!



Waiting for the New 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 went to Productive Printing for formatting and printing, on August 16, we were in contact negotiations with one of the schools. The school had signed a contract at another facility in the City, but is getting out of that contract to relocate here. They plan to start school in January 2018. Until the contract is signed, we opt not to share any particulars, but will let you know in the October Herald. 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 and are looking forward to the new school’s coming.

If you wish to be called wise, intelligent and the friend of God, strive to present your soul to the Lord in the same state as you received it from Him: pure, innocent, completely undefiled. Then you will be crowned in heaven and the angels will call you blessed.

—St. John of Karpathos,
Texts for the Monks in India

All Events Calendar on the Web Site?

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



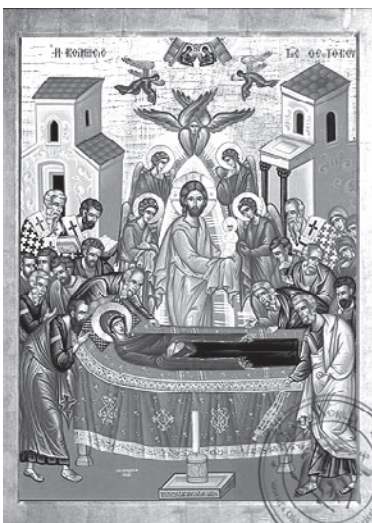
Meanwhile, our Building is getting painted (on the inside)

Every so often, we must spruce up the church, just as we spruce up our homes. And, so, since Sterne School left, and the classrooms need to be repainted, we are repainting the gym, including the Kytherian Room, the hallways, the chapel, and the offices. We think you will like what you see. We extended the color of the gallery into the foyer and into the Kytherian Room. Notice, the wall which had been erected between the gym and the Kytherian Room is down, waiting for the installation of new acoustic panels. These have not been ordered yet, as they are expensive, but we are planning to do so in the near future, as we have the funds. Meanwhile, we ask everyone, from the tiniest tot to the oldest golden ager: please help us keep our church clean. Thank you.



Honoring the Theotokos and their Name Day

Led by Pete (Panagiotis) Koutoulas, who offered the Artoklasia on the Feast of the Dormition, those celebrating their name days—Marios, and Maria (several of them), Panagiotis and Despina (two of them, at least)—assembled during the luncheon following the Liturgy to cut a special cake. They were joined by Father Stephen and the new Consul General of Greece, Ambassador Antonios Sgouropoulos. *Na zisete, kai tou chronou!*



(Note: the connection with the Theotokos is as follows: since the earliest times, Mary has been referred to as the Theotokos, that is, “the one who gave birth to Him who is God,” referring to Jesus Christ, who is both fully God and fully man. She is also referred to as Panagia, that is, “most holy one.” She is called “Lady,” which is what the name Despina means in Greek. Mary or Maria, Panagiota, and Despina, are common names given to females, and Marios, Panagiotis are common names given to males. Some celebrate their Name Day on the Feast of the Dormition, August 15, and others celebrate their name Day on the Feast of her Presentation to the Temple, November 21. By honoring the Theotokos, those who are blessed to receive her name, are duly honored.)

Detachment is the mark of a perfect soul, whereas it is characteristic of an imperfect soul to be worn down with anxiety about material things.

—St. Neilos the Ascetic,
Ascetic Discourse

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. Won’t you consider volunteering once in a while? All you have to do is show up. By the way, there’s no age limit. We have teenagers volunteering and we have people “forever young” volunteering. What if the entire world took notice and tried a little bit of outreach: the world would become a better place. How about it? See you September 19?



We are ever so grateful to our Young Adults, who lead this ministry.



Thanks to those who prepared this food, those who serve it.



They keep coming and coming. What’s wrong with this disconnect? In the most affluent corner of the corner, if not the world, hunger persists! We pause to thank God that, in this small way, feeding people, we find ourselves engaged in prayer. We find ourselves counting our blessings. We find ourselves thankful that we can go out of our way and do something to help others.

Sorry, but There's No Room for Hatred

When will we learn? Learn that hatred destroys, that love and love alone builds up? The recent events in Charlottesville, Virginia leave us horrified, to the point that we must emphatically denounce bigotry and declare, Sorry, but there's no room for hatred. Not now. Not ever. As a result, on August 15, religious leaders of San Francisco issued a statement which merits reading and rereading. We reprint it for you in its entirety, below.

August 15, 2017, San Francisco -- First and foremost, we offer our prayers for the victims and the families of the dead in Charlottesville, Virginia and all who were traumatized by the hateful violence that ensued there.

Sometimes when horrific and deadly acts are perpetrated in the name of hate, such as our nation witnessed on August 12, 2017 in Charlottesville,

we are tempted to limit those incidents to the context in which they occurred. Charlottesville is a place intimately identified with our nation's painful and divisive Civil War history, and it is easy to think that such an event could only happen in that region of the country. Sadly, what happened in Charlottesville is symptomatic of an unprecedented growth of organized hate in our nation that knows no geo-

Kaushik Roy, Chair, *San Francisco Interfaith Council*
Rita R. Semel, Past Chair, *San Francisco Interfaith Council*
Michael G. Pappas, Executive Director,
San Francisco Interfaith Council
Imam Abu Qadir Al-Amin, Resident Imam,
San Francisco Muslim Community Center
Rev. Deborah Alvarez-Rodriguez, Pastor,
Jones United Methodist Church
The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop,
The Episcopal Diocese of California
Fr. Mesrop Ash, Parish Priest,
St. John Armenian Apostolic Church
Fatih Ferdi Ates, Director, *Pacifica Institute*
The Rev. Sally Bingham, President,
California Interfaith Power & Light
Rev. Dr. Amos C. Brown, Pastor,
Third Baptist Church & President, SF Branch-NAACP
Rev. Angela Brown, JD, Associate Pastor,
GLIDE Memorial United Methodist Church
Rev. Dr. Ellen Clark-King, Executive
Pastor and Canon for Social Justice, *Grace Cathedral*
Rev. Staci Current, District Superintendent Bay District, CA-NV
Annual Conference UMC
Sister Chandru Desai, Director,
Brahma Kumaris Meditation Center, SF
Pastor Elizabeth Ekdale, Lead Pastor, *St. Mark's Lutheran Church*
Fred Fielding, Board President, *Interfaith Center at the Presidio*
Rev. Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J., President, *University of San Francisco*
Rabbi Marvin Goodman, Executive Director Emeritus,
Board of Rabbis of No. California
Rev. Jisan Tova Green, *San Francisco Zen Center*
Iftekhar Hai, President,
United Muslims of America Interfaith Alliance
Deacon G.L. Hodge, *Providence Baptist Church*
The Rev. Mark W. Holmerud, Bishop, *Sierra Pacific Synod, ELCA*
Most Reverend William Justice, Auxiliary Bishop,
Archdiocese of San Francisco

graphic boundaries. We need look no further than the findings of a recent report published by the Southern Poverty Law Center (<https://www.splcenter.org/hate-map>) to face the reality that 917 hate groups exist in the United States of America, 79 of which are found in California, and a significant number calling the Bay Area their home.

As statements and vigils decrying acts of hate and violence in Charlottesville flooded social and other media, a group calling itself "Patriot Prayer," actively petitioned to host back-to-back rallies in San Francisco's Crissy Field and Berkeley's Martin Luther King Park on August 26 and 27, respectively. The former is billed as "Patriot Prayer: Free Speech, Unity and Peace San Francisco," the latter, a "No to Marxism Rally."

As people of faith, we stand united to denounce those who use words such as "prayer," "unity" and "peace" to mask any agenda of hate, intolerance, and bigotry. In the days ahead, we will use the voices of faith communities - through prayer, the pulpit, and our communications networks - to educate and inform, and to fight racism, hatred, and bigotry wherever it may occur, particularly in our City of St. Francis. We will not step aside but will stand strong for our values of inclusivity, respect for all persons, and justice.

The Rev. Victor H. Kazanjian, Jr., Executive Director,
United Religions Initiative
Rev. D. Andrew Kille, Chair, *Silicon Valley Interreligious Council*
Rev. Ronald Kobata, Resident Minister,
Buddhist Church of San Francisco
Fr. Stephen Kyriacou, Dean, *Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral*
Rev. Deborah Lee, (UCC) Program Director,
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity
Rev. Junchol Lee, Senior Pastor,
San Francisco Swedenborgian Church
Rev. Dr. James McCray, Jr., Executive Director,
Tabernacle Community Development Corp.
Rev. Will McGarvey, Executive Director,
Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County
Rev. Jeanelle Nicolas Ablola, Pastor, *Pine United Methodist Church*
Abby Porth, Executive Director,
Jewish Community Relations Council
Rev. Scott Quinn, Executive Director, *Marin Interfaith Council*
Rabbi Larry Raphael, Rabbi Emeritus, *Congregation Sherith Israel*
Rev. Vanessa Rush Southern, Senior Minister,
First Unitarian Universalist Society of SF
Moina Shaiq, President, *Tri City Interfaith Council*
Rita Shimmin, Executive Director, *GLIDE Foundation*
Rabbi Beth Singer, Senior Rabbi, *Congregation Emanu-El*
Rabbi Jonathan Singer, Senior Rabbi, *Congregation Emanu-El*
Stephanie Spencer, President, *Eden Area Interfaith Council*
Rev. Sadie Stone, Pastor, *Bethany United Methodist Church*
Swami Tattwamayanda, Minister,
Vedanta Society of San Francisco
Rev. John Weems, Pastor & Head of Staff,
Calvary Presbyterian Church
Rev. Dr. Jay Williams, Lead Pastor,
GLIDE Memorial United Methodist Church
The Very Rev. Dr. Malcolm Clemens Young, Dean, *Grace Cathedral*
Rabbi Jessica Zimmerman Graf, Senior Rabbi,
Congregation Sherith Israel

YOUTH NEWS



Dance Group News

2018 FDF to take Place in San Francisco!

Greek Dancing resumes August 20th

The Annunciation Cathedral Greek folk dance program is back from Summer break! We are resuming practices after church on Sunday, August 20th. All groups are currently open to new dancers for a very limited time. On Sunday August 27th, the directors and parent representatives from the groups will hold a meeting outlining the program objectives and requirements for the year, followed by dance practice.

The members of the Annunciation dance family are thrilled this year to represent the Cathedral in our home town for the 42nd annual Greek Orthodox Folk Dance & Choral Festival (FDF), which will take place January 11-14, 2018 at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco, CA! One third of parishes that participate in FDF are located near the Bay Area. Additionally, San Francisco is home to the Metropolis of San Francisco, which has supported FDF since 1976. We are excited to bring this event to back to Northern California, an area so connected to the FDF community!

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

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

Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 2nd-4th grade in Fall 2017

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis and Eleni Taptelis

Thisavri: 5th-7th grade in Fall 2017

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 8th -12th grade in Fall 2017

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

FDF information

FDF website www.yourfdf.org

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

Instagram and Twitter @yourfdf

Snapchat @Your_FDF

- Your 2018 FDF Management Team and FDF Board of Trustees
Hotel Room Reservation Information
A special FDF room rate of \$195 per night has been secured for FDF participants.

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

To reserve a hotel room with the FDF room rate, go to: www.yourfdf.org

NB: Adult Group in the Making

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 for, begins on September 10th. We encourage the parents and grandparents that bring their children to Sunday School to set a new goal this year: let's see how many children can attain perfect attendance! And, another goal, to be in class by 10:30 a.m., when Sunday School begins.

Sunday School will continue on September 17, but not during the UNICEF on September 24. On October 22, we will distribute Unicef Halloween boxes, which will be collected the following Sunday, October 29. Then, 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 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. We are optimistic that, this year, we will have all the teachers needed for our program, with one or two to spare!



Y2 AM Ministry Plan
Y2am.org/Ministry Plan



Greek School News

We hope everyone is enjoying the last few days of summer! Summer went by fast, and we are ready to start another fun year of Greek school on Saturday, September 30th.

Our hours stay the same from 10 am to 12:15 pm. There is room to enroll your child in one of our seven levels. Annual tuition remains at \$500.

I will be putting together the student rosters this month and I will send email updates. I am attaching the student registration form in this newsletter.

If you need more information about our school, please don't hesitate to contact Anthi Janssens at anthigj@gmail.com or 415-254-5458.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming back our returning families and meeting new ones!

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.

As wax cannot take the imprint of a seal unless it is warmed or softened thoroughly, so a man cannot receive the seal of God's holiness unless he is tested by labours and weaknesses. That is why the Lord says to St. Paul: 'My grace is sufficient for you: for My power comes to its fullness in your weakness;' and The Apostle himself proudly declares: 'Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me'

(2 Cor. 12:9). –St. Diadochos of Photiki,
 On Spiritual Knowledge

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 September is as follows:

September 3	-	Group 1
September 10	-	Group 2
September 17	-	Group 3
September 24 (Festival)	-	Group 4

Our altar groups are as follow:

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

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

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

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

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

*When you go to bed with a contented mind, recall the blessings and generous providence of God; be filled with holy thoughts and great joy. Then, while your body sleeps, your soul will keep watch; the closing of your eyes will bring you a true vision of God; your silence will be pregnant with sanctity, and in your sleep you will continue consciously to glorify the God of all with the full strength of your soul. For when evil is absent from man, his thankfulness is by itself more pleasing to God than any lavish sacrifice. To Him be glory through all the ages.
Amen.*

—Attributed to St. Anthony the Great, On the Character of Men

S E P T E M B E R C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						Syrup prep. 9-5
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.		Baklava, 9 – 5		Galaktoboureko, 9-5	Dance Practice, 6:15-9 pm	Dolmades prep, 9-5
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.		Bell Peppers, 9 – 5	Bell Peppers, 9 – 5	Elevation of the Holy Cross: Orthros 9 am, Liturgy 10 am	Dance Practice 6:15-9 pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Festival Set-Up Parish Council 12:30 pm	Baklava, 9-5 pm	Chicken prep. 12 noon Community Kitchen 6:30 pm Young Adult Get-together 8 pm	Galaktoboureko & Rizogalo 9-5		Festival	Festival
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Festival					Dance Practice 6:15-9 pm	Greek School, 10 am

PLEASE NOTE:

Pastistio and Moussaka will be outsourced; Loukoumades, salata, lamb, gyros, and some other items will be prepared during the course of the festival.

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
PERMIT NO. 1734

LET'S GET COOKIN'! Greek Food Festival 2017



Annunciation Cathedral Greek School Registration Form
September 2017 - June 2018

Complete a separate form for each child.

STUDENT'S INFORMATION

Name		
Birth month/year		
Street address		
	CA	

PARENTS' INFORMATION

Mother's name		
Mother's phone number		
Father's name		
Father's phone number		
Email address(es)		

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Emergency contact name		
Contact's phone number		
Student's insurance		
Doctor's name		
Doctor's phone number		

Please list any medical conditions that our teachers should be aware of, including allergies. Also list all medications that the student is currently taking and for what conditions.

--

WAIVER OF RESPONSIBILITY

I authorize the Staff of the Annunciation Greek School to call an ambulance for my child in case of an accident or acute illness and to allow for possible medical and surgical care in case his/her doctor or I am not immediately available.

Parent/Guardian signature		
Date signed		