



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 • 415 864-8000 • FAX 415 431-5860 • E-MAIL office@annunciation.org

DECEMBER 2010

The Visitation of a King



A village learned one day that their good and wise king would come to visit and greet his subjects. The people of the village felt much

honored. Everyone agreed that the king should be treated with the utmost courtesy.

The mayor of the village announced that a magnificent feast would be held. Each family was requested to bring a pitcher of their finest wine and pour it into a very large and very tall barrel. Finally the great feast day arrived. The village was sparkling clean and brightly decorated to celebrate the event.

The good and wise king arrived with his entourage of nobles and servants. After formal words were exchanged, the mayor proposed a toast. When the wine was drawn from the barrel, however, it was discovered to be water! Everyone was ashamed and embar-

assed. Each family had secretly felt that if they brought water instead of wine, their non-offering would not be discovered. The village was dishonored.

How often we in the Church feel that someone else will give. We imagine that our minimal or missing gift will not be discovered. We fail to be good stewards. We do not give honor and courtesy to the good and wise King, Jesus Christ.

We receive countless blessings from God – our lives, families, friends, health and a living standard far superior to most of the world. Ultimately, we receive the precious gift of eternal communion “from glory to glory” with Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

The True King of Kings

Now, through a *meaningful* and *sacrificial* gift to the Campaign for the New Cathedral of the Metropolis we can make our thanksgiving offering to God. We humbly and respectfully ask each and every family to pray, meditate and discuss their *sacrificial* gift within their family or with their financial advisors. A sacrificial gift very likely results in a lifestyle change to honor it. We should feel some emotional discomfort when we make our pledge. It may be the largest gift we have ever made. For those who can, we ask consideration of a gift not only from disposable income but also from appreciated assets, for these too come from God. In due time a member of the Capital Campaign Committee will request the opportunity to meet with you to receive your offering to the King of Kings.



CATHEDRAL'S STEWARDSHIP 2011 CAMPAIGN UNDER WAY!

The last three Sundays of November we heard three members of the 2010-2011 Cathedral Stewardship Committee share some of their thoughts and experiences on stewardship and their relationship with the Lord. This December 5, the first Sunday of December will be our 2010 Stewardship Sunday, at which we will invite all our parishioners to bring their 2011 stewardship pledge cards to church, having prayerfully considered what to give back to the Lord through our Cathedral community for the coming year. Those who wish can also mail their pledge cards in at an earlier time. In addition, **Perri Nager**, a member of the Stewardship Committee will share her experiences in the chapel after Divine Liturgy, and all are welcome to attend our Stewardship Luncheon following services.

Being a faithful steward means sharing what we believe He has given us. We fulfill this by offering back to Him our time, talents and treasure, which the Lord has freely given to us in abundance. Prayer, fasting, and giving are cornerstones to a healthy soul, and thus to being a faithful servant.

Thank you to **Niko Stathopoulos, Perri Nager, Chris Kyriacou, Nick Svetcoff, and Gus Vouchilas** for all their work and dedication to our 2011 campaign.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION BY GUS VOUCHILAS

On Sunday, November 14, **Gus Vouchilas**, Chairman of the Cathedral's Stewardship Committee, offered the first Stewardship Reflection. At the conclusion, Gus received a resounding round of applause. The text of his remarks are being reprinted for your edification.

As I consider my own stewardship today, I am reminded that I have been a part of the Annunciation family for nearly my entire life. As with families, the basic structure of things has sometimes changed, and with each change comes new challenges and growth. Yet, at the end, this continued relationship is at the essence of who I have become. I realize that who I am is reliant upon my connection to my faith and ultimately my connection to Christ. Whatever devotion I hold for this house, comes and grows through Him. It is within this relationship that my commitment to the Annunciation has been built.

Each of us finds different meaning and each of us experiences different manifestations that result through individual connections to this Cathedral. We all come to worship yet, by the same token, we all find something that pulls at our heartstrings. Still, we

ultimately come to partake in church life with our families, our friends, and our community; to share in joyous moments or in times of pain, to share in glad times, and sometimes to share in sorrow. We watch as our children grow, become involved in youth programs, and ultimately capture what is meaningful for them as they move into adulthood. The ultimate goal is to come together to become one with God for this is where we find strength.

Becoming one with Him is reliant upon doing His will, His way. God calls upon us to fulfill our lives as He has intended for us. He calls upon us to be Stewards of those things that we love. Everything that exists is through God for He cares about us and provides for us. Many of you are parents, taking care of children while others are children taking care of parents. Others of you are children caring for hamsters, cats, dogs, fish, or birds. And still, most of us care for our homes, our toys, and all of our belongings. We all care for those things in life that we have been called upon to care for, and that we need and want to care for. You and I do this because of our love and because of our faith. We are, then, Stewards, and we are ready to do whatever it takes to care for the

people, pets, toys, and everything else that is a part of who we are.

Just as we are stewards of those who we love, and those things that are important to us, so are we Stewards of the Cathedral. It is only through our strength in serving this church that it will continue to thrive and to serve as a platform for coming together to live life as God intended for us. I know that we all love this church – in doing so, we must in turn care for it just as we would our families, pets, and belongings. This means that we remain engaged, remain active, help wherever we are needed, contribute new ideas for growth and development, and provide for the church financially. Stewardship, as I see it, takes more than a simple contribution. It takes an open heart and a sincere commitment – even a sacrificial commitment as we have recently heard from Fr. Anthony Scott. It is intended to be a powerful resolution that is continual and that should be embraced and reflect ideals. As always, each of us shall decide what our Stewardship commitments will be this year. I don't speak only in the financial sense, but in the sense of caring as we do for all else in life. If we truly plan to make a difference, imagine how much we will be

able to achieve.

In Deuteronomy (15:10 ESV) it is stated “You shall give to him freely, and your heart shall not be grudging when you give to him, because for this the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake.”

The essence of this passage is that God will always provide and will not set us aside. He relies on us to continue to be Stewards of all that is His. As he breathed life into us, so will He continue to provide for us as we care for our Cathedral programs and our united home here. Through continued faith, through continued prayer, through continued working for what is right and for what we believe in, I know that God’s light will illuminate the path upon which we grow and thrive. There is everlasting life through your continued caring and Stewardship.

In today’s gospel reading, Jesus, in speaking to the inquisitive lawyer, told him the story of the man who was going from Jerusalem to Jericho—the man had been robbed and beaten and left on the side of the road. Two people came walking by the man as he lay there yet did nothing to help him. The Samaritan not only had mercy on him, but also took him and saw to it that he would be cared for. The Samaritan essentially was a steward toward his fellow man. He cared about taking care of this person - a perfect stranger – in the same way that we care for those things that we

know and love. How glad God must be when we act as Stewards of those things that He has created and which He has bestowed upon us as gifts. It is not essential that we care for, nurture, and love them the way the Samaritan did for this stranger?

As we embark on a new and exciting time, a time to rethink all things ranging from our building hopes to our programs, and from our children to our community, it is vital to think about how we can work together through our shared commitments to not only to build on our hopes, but to reach and exceed our dreams, through our stewardship.

Today marks the beginning of new life for the coming year in our Cathedral. This day is one in which we ask ourselves what the true meaning of Stewardship is. I know that if you look around you, you will see it. The Cathedral doesn’t thrive through its walls, offices, and halls; it thrives through caring, faithful and loving hearts. It thrives through the knowledge that through Christ, anything is possible. It thrives through the caring souls who keep giving even when times are hard. It thrives through the caring hearts that bring light and love to others. It thrives through our children’s inquisitive minds and warm smiles that always make us feel happy. I know in my heart that Christ asks us to Come and See, see what we can do if we truly believe. Stewardship is life through Christ. It is coming together as one. It is sharing all of the gifts we have received with our brothers and

sisters. It is what we should remember when we come together to glorify the One who continues to provide for us.

In order to begin the process, I believe that we must look for renewal of our faith and of inner selves. We must ask ourselves difficult questions about what we give to the church, what time we will allow ourselves to spend here, which of our personal attributes will we share with our community, and how will it all make a difference.

We have embarked on the future for our children and grandchildren, not just for the coming year, but for the future. We would never be satisfied without knowing that we have left a legacy for them to take pride in and to provide for – that’s what Stewardship is all about. It’s about taking care of our past, our present, and our future. Stewardship is about giving from the heart and expecting nothing in return. It’s about finding meaning in our lives that is founded on truth...that truth is Jesus Christ. I pray that His love will guide us through our journey together this coming year, and beyond.

In closing, I leave you with this passage from Matthew (6:31 – 33 ESV): “Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

STEWARDSHIP LUNCHEON ON DECEMBER 5

December 5 is “Stewardship Sunday” at the Cathedral. Parishioners are invited to bring their 2011 Stewardship Pledge Cards to church with them. Then, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, the clergy, the Parish Council, along with the Philoptochos Board, will be invited to come up and place their stewardship pledge cards, in the envelopes provided, in a special collection basket. The entire congregation will then make their stewardship commitment for 2011. Following this symbolic day of dedication and renewal to our parish, lunch will be served, compliments of the Stewardship Committee. This will afford us the opportunity to thank you publicly for your continued support of the Cathedral and its ministries.

THE MEANING OF CHURCH MEMBERSHIP BY FATHER JIM KORDARIS

“Now you are the body of Christ, and individually members of it.”

-1 Corinthians 12:27

To be a member of the Church is not the same as being a member of a club or civic group. The Church is the “Body of Christ” (1 Corinthians 12). Therefore, to be a member of the Church is to be a part of the living body of Christ. Just as every member has a different function in the human body, so do we each have a specific function or calling in His Church. God did not create each of us to do the same thing. If a member of the human body is missing or not functioning, the entire body does not reach its full potential. In the same way, without all the members of the Church participating and working together, our ministries do not reach their full potential. The Church needs not only to maintain its current ministries, but also to grow its ministries and add new ministries as needs or opportunities arise. Often new ministries come about because one member has an idea and the gifts, talent, training, abilities, education and skills to make it a reality. Each of us is called to offer our gifts as we have been blessed and serve according to the task that God has placed before us in service to His Church.

Holy Scripture provides guiding principles for us as members of the Church for building up the body of Christ:

Promote Truth and Unity

In Ephesians 4:25 we read, “Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbor, for we are all members of one body.”

Use Our God-given Abilities to Serve

In I Corinthians chapter 12 we read of the importance of using our gifts to serve the Church. Your gift is unique and important. The proper functioning of the body requires that you use your gifts in service to God.

Regular and Cheerful Giving

In I Corinthians 16:2 we read, “On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his/her income.” In this way, we offer back to God’s Church the “first fruits” of our labor, realizing that all we possess comes from Him. In II Corinthians 9:7 we read, “Each person should give what he/she has decided in his/her heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Keep in mind that the expenses of the Church increase every year. In order to grow our ministries, your stewardship contributions must also increase each year.

Let your life be an example to others

In chapter 5 of the Gospel of Matthew Jesus tells us that we “...are the light of the world.” He calls on us to let our “...light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.”

Worship God

In Psalm 92 we read, “It is good to praise the LORD and make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your faithfulness at night.” We are healed by praying and worshiping with others. There is a great sense of community that gives us strength when we pray and worship together in liturgy. We pray for ourselves and others, and we thank God for the many blessings in our lives.

Love each other

In I John 4 we read, “Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.” And in the 13th chapter of the Gospel of John, Jesus tells us, “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

Are you a contributing member of the body of Christ? Are you actively serving God and sharing Him with others? Are you contributing to peace and unity within His body? Do you worship regularly? Take a moment to evaluate your life in light of these principles. We are called to apply our gifts, training, abilities, education and skills to the tasks that God places before us. If we do this humbly and prayerfully, the body of Christ will function to its full potential.

The New Testament’s motivation for giving is grace; giving is an act of worship in response to the generosity of God. You are to give, Paul says, “as God has prospered you.” II Corinthians 8 and 9 teaches clearly, “He who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.”

God blesses those who give with generosity.” Giving is a way to thank God for His grace and generosity. The question is not, “How much do I give to stay in the club?” or “What are the dues?” but “How can I thank God for my many blessings?”

BUILDING UP THE BODY OF CHRIST

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV) *It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

— Fr. Jim Kordaris serves the Archdiocese as director of Stewardship, Outreach & Evangelism and as pastor of the Church of St. George in New York City. This article was recommended by members of the 2010-2011 Cathedral Stewardship Committee.

THE CATHEDRAL'S 2010 COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD

Ues, it is that time. The time when we gather names of parishioners who wish to extend greetings to one another via the Cathedral's Christmas card. The card is sent to over 1,000 homes. What a wonderful way to extend best wishes to one another, particularly during these challenging, yet, exciting times. Your greeting brings hope and encouragement to one another, since it celebrates the Birth of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. We recognize that, in this digital age, the sending of paper Christmas cards is fast becoming a thing of the past. But, that's for people who strictly communicate by electronic means, such as by e mail, Facebook, and, generally, the Internet. However, there's something heartwarming about receiving a real card. What a welcome addition a "real" Christmas card is, coming as it does amid a mound of circulars, catalogues and general junk mail. For, the Christmas card announces the basic truth of our salvation: Christ is Born!

You may participate in the Community Christmas Card in one of three ways: 1. By clipping the form below and sending it back to the Cathedral; 2. By calling the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000 and telling us you wish to be included; or 3. by responding to Annette Chiappari and Mary Tonas on Sundays, following the Liturgy. They will staff a special "Christmas Card Table" during the coffee fellowship hour until Sunday, December 5. After this date, the names will be sent to the printers for processing. Your gift of \$25. per line helps defray the cost of the card, as well as mailing. Thank you.

Name (Please print exactly as you wish it to appear on the card):

Best way to contact you (phone or e mail):

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 19

The Parish Council is one way through which parishioners may offer service to their church. The Parish Council consists of the Dean and fifteen lay members. The lay members are elected to a two-year term. On December 19, seven members will be elected. The specific duties of the Parish Council are delineated in the Archdiocese Regulations, which may be found on line, at www.goarch.org. Generally, Parish Council members are involved in many areas of parish life. They take the initiative in many areas, heading committees, worshiping regularly, assisting at the Pangari and by passing the collection plate. They are exemplary stewards, participating both in the stewardship program of the Cathedral and being in good standing with the Church. They attend Parish Council meetings, Parish Assemblies, as well as Metropolis and Archdiocese Clergy-Laity meetings. They support and participate in the Capital Campaign to build the Cathedral. Accordingly, they are perceived to be the leaders of the parish. If you would like to run for Parish Council, you may request a Declaration of Candidacy Form, by speaking with **Father Stephen** or by calling the Cathedral at 415 864-8000.

OATH OF OFFICE ON JANUARY 9

As noted above, on December 19, parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral will cast their votes for members of the Parish Council whose terms begin January 1, 2011 and conclude December 31, 2012. These seven individuals will join the eight who were elected last year to the fifteen-member Parish Council and will serve a two year term.

Because the first Sunday of January coincides with the New Years Day weekend, the oath of office will be administered on Sunday, January 9, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Immediately following, the entire Parish Council will convene and elect its officers for 2011.

PARISH VASILOPITA ON JANUARY 9

As is known, January 1 marks the Feast of the Circumcision of our Lord as well as the Feast of St. Basil the Great. Accordingly, the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great is celebrated, beginning at 10 a.m. In addition, a special bread, known as *Vasilopita* (St. Basil's bread), is baked and distributed to the members of the household. This tradition dates to the 4th century, when St. Basil, Archbishop of Caesarea (in Asia Minor) placed coins and other valuables in bread and distributed the bread anonymously to the poor and also to girls in need of a dowry. (The dowry system, whereby the family of the bride provide the material means for the maintenance of a household, including a house, livestock and property, is still practiced in some parts of the world today.) On Sunday, January 9, the Cathedral will celebrate the *Vasilopita*, through the efforts of the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. The monies raised support St. Basil's Academy and other philanthropies. Everyone is invited to this wonderful event, which will take place in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall, following the Divine Liturgy.

DIVINE LITURGY AT ST. NICHOLAS ON DECEMBER 6

December 6 marks the Feast of St. Nicholas the Wonderworker. St. Nicholas was bishop of Myra in Lycia (Asia Minor) in the middle of the fourth century. His philanthropy gave rise to the figure of Santa Claus. The name Santa Claus is derived from St. Nicholas. For some years now, inasmuch as we have an Orthodox Church in San Francisco which celebrates its feast on that day, we do not hold services at the Cathedral (except when the Feast falls on a Sunday), but participate in the Divine Liturgy at St. Nicholas, instead. Therefore, on Monday, December 6 the Divine Liturgy will be celebrated at St. Nicholas Antiochian Orthodox Church, 5200 Diamond Heights Boulevard, San Francisco, beginning at 10:30 a.m. St. Nicholas invites everyone who attends to join their parishioners for a luncheon, which will follow the Divine Liturgy.



PLANNING A MAKARIA

A Makaria is a meal which follows a funeral. The word Makaria means "blessed" and evokes the hymn chanted at the funeral: *Makaria I odos... Blessed is the way on which you go this day, for a place of rest has been prepared for you.* The meal offers the opportunity for remembrance of the one who has fallen asleep and to offer support to the bereaved members of the family. Some times these gatherings take place in homes or at restaurants. Some times they take place in the church, either immediately following the funeral service or following the burial. (Note: the Church does not do a funeral for a person being cremated.) Until now, when a Makaria was held at the Cathedral, the meal was prepared by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. The women, along with a cook, and the Cathedral's support staff, handled the event. However (and this was evident in the most recently held Makarias), the Philoptochos was unable to do the Makaria. Therefore, the Cathedral is informing its parishioners and friends to make a note of the Cathedral's caterers, who are **Alpha Catering and Stella's Catering** (as well as McCalls), and to make arrangements with one of them for the Makaria. **For Alpha Catering, the number is 510 538-1410 (speak with Maria or Dino Yiannakopoulos).** **For Stella's Catering, the number is 415 424-7573 (speak with Yvonne or John Stamatakis).**

PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos
Society presents its:

29th Annual Crab Feed

Friday, January 28, 2011
Cocktail Reception: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:30 p.m.



\$50.00 per person

Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment

For Reservations call:
Annunciation Cathedral at 415.864.8000

Attended Parking Available

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)

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos, Attn: Crab Feed
Please mail completed reservation form and check by January 10th to:
Annunciation Cathedral: 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94103

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON TO TAKE PLACE ON DECEMBER 14

The Philoptochos annual Christmas luncheon will take place at John's Grill, 63 Ellis Street, San Francisco (between Union Square and Market Streets), on Tuesday, December 14, at noon.

Philoptochos members and guests are invited to attend and to bring a friend to this wonderful gathering. Afterwards, one can spend time shopping or simply strolling through this bustling part of San Francisco. The restaurant is easily accessible and parking is available at the Ellis Street Garage, located across the street from John's Grill.

Ackie Argyres is chairman for the event. She will be taking reservations. Please call her, at 415 751-2180. The cost for the luncheon, which includes tax and tip, is \$25. per person.

PRAYER BEFORE TRAVEL

O Savior, as you journeyed with Luke and Cleopas on the road to Emmaus, journey also with your servants, defending them from all evil. Surround them with your holy angels. Grant that they may carry out their plans according to your will, for you alone are almighty and love mankind. Amen.

CRAB FEED ON JANUARY 28

Please refer to the flyer above and utilize it to make your reservations for our fabulous Crab Feed, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. The Crab feed will take place at the Cathedral on Friday, January 28, beginning with dinner at 6 p.m. and followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. The Crab Feed is the largest source of income for the Cathedral Philoptochos. Accordingly, your participation helps support the ministries of the Philoptochos. Plus our crab feed features the best crab found anywhere. This is why this event continues to be a sell-out year after year. We look forward to welcoming you.



HIS EMINENCE METROPOLITAN GERASIMOS
THE METROPOLIS OF SAN FRANCISCO
PHILOPTOCHOS BOARD AND CHAPTERS
JOYFULLY INVITE YOU TO ATTEND

A HOLIDAY BRUNCH

IN SUPPORT OF
THE BISHOP ANTHONY
PHILOPTOCHOS STUDENT AID
ENDOWMENT FUND
SEMINARIANS AND STUDENTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2010

CHRISTMAS CHEER, RECEPTION,
AND HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
ELEVEN O'CLOCK

LUNCHEON TWELVE NOON

ENTERTAINMENT BY
THE RENOWNED
ANNUNCIATION CHOIR

THE HELLENIC CENTER
614 ALHAMBRA BOULEVARD
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FOR INFORMATION AND RSVP, PLEASE CALL (916) 443-2033

"The Student Aid Endowment Fund is a tangible effort to secure the future of our faith and culture in this metropolis; for it is through this Fund that our future priests, educators and pastoral assistants are supported both financially and morally in their

His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco

education. From the beginning, the Metropolis Philoptochos has been the guardian angel of this important project. May our Lord grant His love and grace to all who labor and support the Student Aid Endowment Fund."



HOLIDAY BRUNCH IN SACRAMENTO THIS YEAR

The annual Holiday Brunch, sponsored by the Metropolis Philoptochos and supported by all the Philoptochos Chapters, will take place this year at the Hellenic Center of the Annunciation, Sacramento, located at 614 Alhambra Boulevard, Sacramento. All proceeds go to the Bishop Anthony-Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund. This fund pays for the education of our future clergy, who study at Hellenic College-Holy Cross School of Theology, located in Brookline, Massachusetts. We invite and encourage your participation and support. For further information or to make reservations, please call 916 443-2033.

OUR 2010 ANGEL TREE PROJECT

This year, the Philoptochos' Angel Tree, an annual project, will benefit The Hamilton Family Center. This charity, established in 1985, has become one of the largest providers of shelter, support and services to homeless families in San Francisco. They are very appreciative of our offer to provide Christmas gifts to some of their approximately 600 homeless children.

The Angel Tree will be set up in the gallery (the hallway outside the Korinthias Hall) beginning Sunday, November 21. If you wish to participate in providing a Christmas gift to a homeless child, please stop by and pick a child's name from the tree. All gifts should be brought to the church, unwrapped, and with the name tag attached, no later than December 19. Gift cards or checks are also acceptable gifts for the older children.

Thank you for sharing the Christmas spirit and helping others in need.

IF YOU ARE HOSPITALIZED

For some years now, area hospitals no longer maintain records based upon one's religious affiliation. Therefore, if a priest goes to a hospital to visit a parishioner, he has no way of knowing whether another member of the parish is also at the same hospital, unless he is informed. If you, or if anyone you know, are hospitalized and wish to be visited by one of the Cathedral clergy, kindly let us know by calling the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000.

LAST COMMUNITY LINK FOR 2010 ON DECEMBER 18

Please join us for our upcoming Community Link on Saturday, December 18. We meet at the Cathedral at 9am for prayer and visit assignments, followed by visits (usually in pairs), concluding by noon.

Our visitations to home-bound parishioners are very special to us and to those we visit. They bring joy to our seniors who are experiencing isolation from their community due to illness, loss or hardship. Community Link is an excellent way for all of us -- children, adults and families -- to engage with one another and to share the message of God's love.

If you know someone who would like a visit, or to RSVP, please email **Caroline Pappajohn**, carolinepappajohn@gmail.com

FOCUS ON YOUTH

YOUTH NEWS

Chevy's Fundraiser a Success!!

Many thanks to all our Cathedral parishioners who came on November 8 to our youth group fundraiser at Chevy's in South San Francisco! That night, it seemed as though the majority of those in the restaurant were Cathedral parishioners who had come to support our JOY, GOYA, and Young Adult groups. 25% of everything that was ordered by those who came to support the youth groups was donated by Chevy's back to the Cathedral.

Thanks also, to our wonderful youth committee of **Mike Canelos, Tina Kontonis, Maria Manetas, Chrisoula Pezo** and **Ari Stratakis**, for organizing and promoting the event to make it the success that it was! We look forward to more such fundraisers for our youth in the future. Thanks!



Our Cathedral GOYA after our dodgeball game November 15

GOYA News- December

Last month, our Cathedral GOYA met at the Cathedral on Monday, November 15 for a dodgeball night! 16 GOYAnS came to have pizza and throw kickballs at one another, which turned out to be great fun. Thanks again for our GOYA leaders, **Harry Misthos** and **Katerina Loufas** for organizing the event.

This month, our GOYA will meet on the second Monday of the month (instead of the third, which is close to Christmas), December 13, for our traditional Christmas event of caroling, followed by going to a GOYA family home for hot cocoa and snacks. In addition, a movie night is being planned for this month, the details of which can be found on the Cathedral Facebook page.

A reminder that GOYA is for all youth between 7-12 grade. All are welcome!



Cathedral JOY Members and their parents supporting our youth groups!



Parents enjoying a nice dinner and supporting our programs.



JOY Parents and children, shown with Father Stephen and Presbyteria

JOY News-December

Our Cathedral JOY group met last November 2 at the **Kontonis home** in Millbrae, and all who came had a wonderful time! 10 JOY kids came to enjoy pizza, to play a game of reenacting their favorite movie song, a faith talk with Deacon Niko, and more fun! Thanks once again to the **Kontonis family** for opening their home that night.

Our JOY group meets the first Tuesday of every month at the home of a JOY family, but next month we will meet on December 14, because Deacon Niko and Father Stephen will both be out of town at a Metropolis clergy retreat on December 7. Our December JOY meeting will take place at the home of **Chris and Irene Kyriacou** in Belmont.

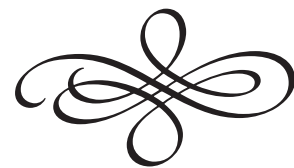
JOY is for all Cathedral youth between grades 3-6, and is also a wonderful time for parents to socialize at someone's home while the JOY night is taking place. Please come!

Young Adult News- December

The Cathedral Young Adult Group met last month at a wonderful German restaurant called Suppenkuche! A wonderful time was had by all, as usual, and more new young adults continue to find out about the group each month.

Our young adult group another dinner and more events coming in December and 2011, so please feel free to let people know that they are always welcome.

For more information on all Cathedral youth ministries, please contact **Deacon Niko Bekris** at deacon@annunciation.org, or visit the **Youth of Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco Facebook page**.



Why is the Lord's presence promised to two or three? Because there, where two or three are gathered in the name of Christ, is the Church, the union of faith and love; there is mutual love.

*Saint John of Kronstadt
Nineteenth Century, Russia*

SUNDAY SCHOOL KORNER

December is highlighted by the Sunday School's **Christmas Program**. This year's Sunday School Christmas program will take place on December 19, immediately following the Divine Liturgy. A community favorite, parishioners and friends of the Cathedral, and especially parents and family members will want to attend Divine Liturgy on the 19th, the Christmas program following. You are asked to "warm up your voice," as you will want to participate in our community sing a long. Parents, teachers and students have been busy preparing for a heartwarming play. Practice will take place every Sunday during December, which is why attendance during this time is very important, even though this is a busy time of year.

Also, please note that we are in the middle of our annual **Food Drive**, which will end on December 19. Bins for food drop off are located in the gallery (the hall outside the chapel and along the Korinthias Hall. Please help us teach our children the importance of giving to those less fortunate. Remember: Canned goods are preferred, but all non-perishables, such as pasta, boxed crackers, and cereals, are accepted. No glass containers, please. (And, of course, please check to see that the items being contributed have a good shelf life, i.e. they are not expired. Our goal this year is to contribute at least 100 pounds to the San Francisco Food Bank.

We also thank everyone who helped with our Halloween Party, which followed church services on Sunday, October 31. The children were adorable and a good time was had by all.

Beginning in November, the Cathedral Sunday School inaugurated the **Andrew & Efrosine Vellis Memorial Scholarship**. We appreciate all the donations made in their memory for the funding of this scholarship. Envelopes are available at the *Pangari* for your contribution. We hope to be able to offer our first scholarship in June of 2011.

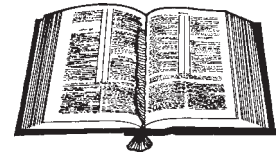
Please note that there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 26 or Sunday, January 2. Families are encouraged to participate in the Divine Liturgy together on those Sundays. Classes will resume on January 9, 2011, as we welcome the New Year with the Parish *Vasilopita*.

GREEK SCHOOL FUND RAISER

The Annunciation Greek School will be selling "Creative Hellenic Gifts" by Kantyli Inc as a fund raiser, during the social hour following the Sunday Divine Liturgy. The fund raiser concludes on Sunday, December 5. You've seen them in English but never in Greek – Now you can tell Yiayia or Nouna "I love you" written in Greek with a laser engraved alder wood picture frame. Or, how about a pencil or key chain with your name written in Greek? These all make great Holiday gifts. Please be sure to stop by and see all the other gift items.

MAKARONADA, TO BENEFIT DANCE PROGRAM, ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12

Following the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 12, the Cathedral's dance groups will host a *makaronada*. The word means "pasta dish." Actually, it has come to refer to a complete meal, which includes a pasta dish. A full luncheon will be served, consisting of roast chicken, salad, *manestra/kritharaki* (orzo), a beverage, and dessert. All for only \$10 per person. The proceeds will benefit the Cathedral's folk dance program. Everyone is invited to attend, thereby lending support to this youth program.



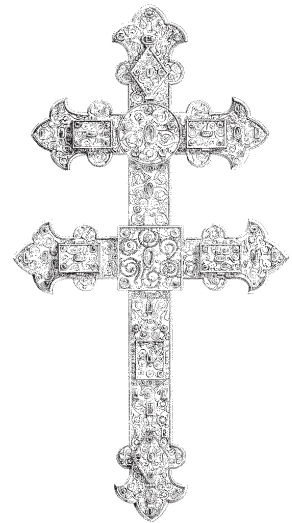
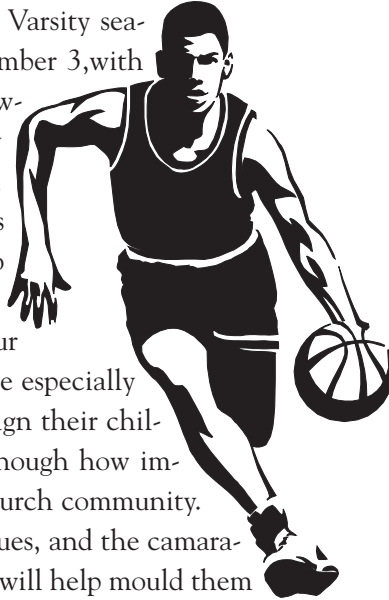
PRAYER AFTER MEALS

We thank you, O Christ our God, that you have satisfied us with your earthly gifts; deprive us not of your heavenly kingdom, but as you came among your disciples, O Savior, and gave them peace, come to us and save us.

Blessed is our God who nourishes us and shows mercy to us with his abundant gifts, through his divine grace and love for mankind. Amen.

JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL PRACTICES THURSDAY EVENINGS

Practice for the 2010-2011 Junior Varsity season began on Wednesday, November 3, with registration. Practice itself, however, takes place on Thursday evenings, beginning at 7 p.m. Boys and girls, ages 7 to 14, are invited to participate in this junior varsity program. We note that, due to the fact that there are not a lot of youth in this age range (most are either older or younger), our A, B, and C teams are impacted. Therefore, we especially urge parents of children in this age range to sign their children up for this program. We cannot stress enough how important it is for children to be a part of the church community. The grounding in our Orthodox Christian values, and the camaraderie experienced, along with good parenting, will help mould them for life, affording them a good grounding, which cannot be replicated elsewhere, for any amount of money. Don't shortchange your children. We recognize there are a lot of options out there, including the option of leaving children alone with their video games—and sometimes it's the easiest choice, with our increasingly busy lifestyles—but this encourages slothfulness and, in the end, unhappy lives. Do we sound as though we are preaching? Yes, we are. We have to. It's your children we're talking about, and their salvation. Needless to say, junior varsity players' parents must be members of the Cathedral in good standing. And, players and coaches alike are required to attend the Divine Liturgy at the Cathedral regularly, with players enrolled in the Cathedral's Sunday School program, as well. You see, we don't just want you involved in church activities. We want you and your children involved in the total life of the Church. Think about it.



Services & Sacraments At The Cathedral

BAPTISM

The daughter of **Angelo Bozionelos** and **Grace Syntia Soghomonian Bozionelos** was baptized at the Cathedral on November 7, and was given the name **Sofia Ani** by her Godparents, **Anastasios** and **Natalia Mavroudis**.

Na Mas Zisi! (Long Life!)

FUNERALS

Helen Economou, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 6, was buried on November 15. She is survived by her son and daughter, **Chris Economou** and **Eugenia Theofanis**.

Despina Vangelatos, who fell asleep in the Lord on November 17, was buried on November 23. She is survived by her son, **George Vangelatos**.

Aionia I mnimi! (Eternal memory)



What saves and makes for good children is the life of the parents in the home. The parents need to devote themselves to the love of God. They need to become saints in their relation to their children through their mildness, patience and love. They need to make a new start every day, with a fresh outlook, renewed enthusiasm and love for their children. And the joy that will come to them, the holiness that will visit them, will shower grace on their children.
Father Porfirios, On the Upbringing of Children

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
				Basketball practice, 7 p.m.		Greek School, 10 a.m. Eritrean School, noon to 2 p.m. Holiday Brunch-Sacramento
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m. Stewardship Sunday Luncheon	St. Nicholas-Liturgy at St. Nicholas 10:30 a.m.	Dance practice, 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Capital Campaign Committee, 7 p.m.	Basketball practice, 7 p.m.		Greek School, 10 a.m. Eritrean School, noon to 2 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m. Makaromada to benefit Dance Groups	GOYA Christmas Caroling	Dance practice, 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. Philoptochos Christmas Luncheon JOY Meeting		Basketball practice, 7 p.m.		Community Link, 9 a.m. Greek School, 10 a.m. Eritrean School, noon to 2 p.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m. Parish Council Elections Sunday School Christmas Program & Luncheon		Dance practice, 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.		Basketball practice, 7 p.m.	Great Hours 9 a.m. Vespers and Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	Nativity of our Savior Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m.		Dance practice, 7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.		Basketball practice, 7 p.m.		



PRAYER OF A CHILD

Our Father in heaven, bless my parents, guardians, and those in authority over me, for the love, tender care, and benefits I receive at their hands. Grant me your grace to perform my duties carefully and faithfully, avoid undesirable company and influence, and resist all temptation that may come my way, living a sober, righteous, and Godly life, ever praising you and glorifying your holy name. Amen.



ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΗ

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΗ ΚΑΡΤΑ

Σε άλλο μέρος του παρόντος δελτίου δύνασθε να σημειώσετε τη συμμετοχή σας στη κοινοτική χριστουγεννιάτικη κάρτα, η οποία στέλλεται σε περίπου 1.000 οικογένειες με την ευκαιρία των Χριστουγέννων. Γνωρίζουμε ότι δεν στέλλονται χριστουγεννιάτικες κάρτες όπως πριν. Πολύς κόσμος (προ παντός η νεολαία) προτιμά να επικοινωνεί μέσω διαδικτύου. Εν τούτοις εξακολουθούν να γίνονται διαφημιστικά φυλλάδια στα σπίτια μας, κατάλογοι από διάφορα καταστήματα, κλπ. Το γραμματοκοιβώτιο μας γεμίζει από κάθε είδος έντυπα. Γιατί όχι και μιά κάρτα, ανάμεσα σ'όλα αυτά, που να μας αναγγέλει· Χριστός γεννάται· δοξάσατε!; Γι'αυτό εξακολουθούμε να παροτρύνουμε τους Χριστιανούς μας να συμμετέχουν στην προσπάθεια αυτή. Δεχόμαστε ονόματα μέχρι την Κυριακή, 5 Δεκεμβρίου. Τηλεφωνείστε στο γραφείο της Κοινότητας, στο 415 864-8000 ή συμπληρώστε και αποστείλετε το σχετικό απόκομμα. Ευχαριστούμε.

ΕΛΑΤΕ ΚΑΙ ΔΕΙΤΕ

Έτσι λέγεται το πρόγραμμα οικονομικής ενίσχυσης του Καθεδρικού Ναού. Όπως είπε ο Φίλιππος στον Ναθαναήλ, έρχου και ίδε (για τον Χριστό), έτσι λέμε και μεις στους πιστούς μας, ακόμα και σ'αυτούς που δεν πιστεύουν ή που έχουν απομακρυνθεί από την Εκκλησία, ελάτε και δείτε. Ελάτε και δείτε τι θα πει Ορθόδοξη Χριστιανική οικογένεια. Ελάτε και σεις να γίετε ενεργά μέλη αυτής της εκκλησιαστικής οικογένειας. Ήδη λάβατε, όπως και πέρυσι, ενημερωτικά φυλλάδια, που περιγράφουν το πρόγραμμα αυτό της ενισχύσεως του Καθεδρικού Ναού, για τον οποίο σεις, σαν μέλη αυτής της οικογένειας, φροντίζετε. Με τη σειρά του, ο Καθεδρικός Ναός συμβάλλει στην ενίσχυση της Ιεράς μας Αρχιεπισκοπής. Αυτή ενισχύει και το Οικουμενικό μας Πατριαρχείο, και την Ιερά Μητρόπολη του Αγίου Φραγκίσκου, δηλαδή την παγκόσμια Εκκλησία. Διότι, έτσι, αισθανόμαστε πραγματικά, ότι η παγκόσμια Ορθοδοξία αποτελεί το ένα σώμα του Χριστού,

αυτή την οικογένεια που Αυτός ο ίδιος ίδρυσε με το αίμα Του. Παρακαλείσθε επομένως όπως εκφράσετε την ενίσχυσή σας με πάθος πίστης, με ελπίδα και πάντα με αγάπη. Καλείσθε επίσης και στο γεύμα που προσφέρει η ανάλογη επιτροπή την Κυριακή 5 Δεκεμβρίου, μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία.

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΥΓΕΝΝΙΑΤΙΚΟ ΓΕΥΜΑ ΦΙΛΟΠΤΩΧΟΥ

Το παραδοσιακό προ-χριστουγεννιάτικο γεύμα της Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητας του Καθεδρικού Ναού θα λάβει χώρα την Τρίτη 14 Δεκεμβρίου στο εστιατόριο Τζονς Γκριλ. Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες ή για να κλείσετε θέσεις, παρακαλείσθε όπως επικοινωνήσετε με την Ακριβή Αργυρή, τηλεφωνώντας στο 415 751-2180.

ΜΑΚΑΡΙΕΣ, ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΚΑΠ

Μέχρι τώρα η Φιλόπτωχος Αδελφότητα του Καθεδρικού Ναού ετοίμαζε τις μακαρίες που γίνονται εν σχέσει με τις κηδείες (είτε μετά την νεκρόσιμο ακολουθία ή μετά τον ενταφιασμό, όπως προτιμήσει η οικογένεια). Δυστυχώς, όμως, η Φιλόπτωχος Αδελφότητα, σαν οργάνωση, δεν θα μπορέσει να συνεχίσει αυτό το έθιμο και έτσι, σε περίπτωση που οι ενορίτες του Καθεδρικού Ναού θα θέλανε να γίνει η μακαρία εις την κοινοτική αίθουσα του Καθεδρικού μας Ναού, παρακαλείσθε όπως επικοινωνήσετε με τους ειδικούς που έχουν αναλάβει το μαγειρείο-σερβίρισμα φαγητού, δηλαδή το Alpha Catering ή το Stella's Catering, τηλεφωνώντας (για το Alpha Catering) στο 510 538-1410 (μιλήστε με την Μαρία ή με τον Ντίνο Γιαννακόπουλο) ή (για το Stella's Catering), στο 415 424-7573 (μιλήστε με την Υβόννη ή τον Γιάννη Σταματάκη).

Δεύτερον, όπως έχουμε γράψει σε προηγούμενα μας δελτία, ευχόμαστε ότι δεν θα σας χρειασθεί αλλά, σε περίπτωση που πάτε στο νοσοκομείο, τα νοσοκομεία της περιοχής μας, για αρκετά χρόνια τώρα, δεν ειδοποιούν την εκκλησία ότι νοσηλεύεσθε, ούτε κρατούν κατάλογο

ασθενών αναλόγως με το θρήσκευμα τους. Έτσι, σε περίπτωση που πάτε στο νοσοκομείο, και επιθυμείτε επίσκεψη από κληρικό του Καθεδρικού Ναού, παρακαλείσθε όπως επικοινωνήσετε μαζί μας, στο 415 864-8000. Πολύ ευχαρίστως, θα θέλαμε να σας δούμε, να προσευχηθούμε και να σας ευχηθούμε καλή ανάρρωση.

ΣΤΟΝ ΑΓΙΟ ΝΙΚΟΛΑΟ ΘΑ ΤΕΛΕΣΘΕΙ Η ΘΕΙΑ ΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΑΝΗΜΕΡΑ ΤΗΣ ΕΟΡΤΗΣ

Όπως κάθε χρόνο, έτσι και εφέτος η Θεία Λειτουργία ανήμερα της Εορτής του Αγίου Νικολάου, θα τελεσθεί στην Αντιοχιανή Εκκλησία του Αγίου Νικολάου, 5200 Λεωφόρος Ντάϊμοντ Ηάιτς, στον Άγιο Φραγίσκο, την Δευτέρα 6 Δεκεμβρίου, στις 10:30 π.μ., και όχι

στον Καθεδρικό Ναό. Στη συνέχεια η κοινότητα του Αγίου Νικολάου προσφέρει γεύμα και καλεί όλους όπως καρακαθίσουν στο γεύμα.

ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΕΣ ΕΚΛΟΓΕΣ ΣΤΙΣ 19 ΔΕΚΕΜΒΡΙΟΥ

Την Κυριακή 19 Δεκεμβρίου μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία τα ενεργά μέλη του Καθεδρικού Ναού καλούνται όπως λάβουν μέρος στις εκλογές 7 μελών του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου, των οποίων η διετής προθεσμία λήγει το τέλος του τρέχοντος έτους. Στη συνέχεια όλοι καλούνται όπως παραμείνουν για το χριστουγεννιάτικο πρόγραμμα που θα παρουσιάσουν τα παιδιά του Κατηχητικού Σχολείου, όπως και στο γεύμα που προσφέρει το Κατηχητικό Σχολείο.



PRAYER AFTER RISING FROM SLEEP

+In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Having risen from sleep, we fall before you, O good One, and sing to you, mighty One, the angelic hymn: holy, holy, holy are you, O God. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

+ Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Having roused me from sleep and bed, O Lord, enlighten my mind and open my heart and lips that I may sing to you, Holy Trinity: Holy, holy, holy are you, O God. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

+Now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen. Suddenly the Judge will come and everyone's deeds will be revealed. But with awe we cry out in the middle of the night: Holy, holy, holy are you, O God. Through the prayers of the Theotokos, have mercy on us.

O Master God, Almighty Father, Only-Begotten Son, Lord Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit—one God and one might. Have mercy upon me a sinner, and save me your unworthy servant according to the ways of your wisdom. For you are blessed now and forever. Amen.

Lord, grant me to greet the coming day in peace. Help me in all things to rely upon your holy will. In every hour of the day reveal your will to me. Bless my dealings with all who surround me. Teach me to treat all that come to me throughout the day with peace of soul, and with the firm conviction that your will governs all. In all my deeds and words, guide my thoughts and feelings. Let me not forget that all unforeseen events are sent by you. Teach me to act firmly and wisely, without embittering and embarrassing others. Give me strength to bear the fatigue of the coming day and all that it might bring. Direct my will, teach me to pray, pray yourself in me. Amen.