

OCTOBER 2011

ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL FOOD FESTIVAL A HUGE SUCCESS!

Our 2011 Greek Food Festival was a smashing success this year! As this issue went to press, the Annunciation Cathedral was concluding its Food Festival, which was held September 23, 24, and 25, on the Cathedral's grounds at 245 Valencia Street. The Festival was a great success, both in the record number of people who attended and also because the Festival benefits the programs and ministries of the community. The Souvenir Festival Book was wonderfully successful again this year, and included not only colored advertisements for the second year in a row, but also renderings of our new Cathedral! All of the success of the book, as well as the entire Festival, is attributable to the efforts of a hard-working committee, hard-working volunteers and, of course, the many people who came during the course of the three-day Festival and supported us. Many, many thanks to all who gave of their time, talents and treasure to support our community's food festival. Here's to next year!



His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos arriving with Fathers Stephen, Anthony, and Niko.



Metropolitan Gerasimos enjoying the festival with friends



Our award-winning Spithes group bringing life and joy to our Food Festival!



Several of the wonderful Cathedral parishioners who helped make this year's Food Festival so wonderful!

SAN FRANCISCO PLANNING COMMISSION APPROVES PLANS FOR NEW CATHEDRAL!!!

Last September 22, the San Francisco Planning Commission UNANIMOUSLY approved the plans for the new Annunciation Cathedral! The presentation was made by Mr. John Goldman, the Cathedral's architect, and was met with much praise and great enthusiasm from all the commissioners. Our Cathedral plans, which were Item #16 on the agenda, were said by one commissioner to be a "beautiful... benefit to the San Francisco community."

The approval of the Commission means that, by the first of this month, our community should have its building permit to break ground, after submitting the plans for a permit almost one year ago.

This is a momentous step in the life of our community, and one step closer to our dream of rebuilding the church that was lost in 1989. It will be a magnificent temple to the glory of God, and for the good of all His people. This labor of love will require the effort and commitment which you have already shown to continue these coming years, so that this historic goal may be realized. Let us, then, truly, "Build Him a sanctuary, that He may appear among us."

"Linked" Together

Our Cathedral family is grateful for the efforts of our Community Link group these last five years. What a blessing for our community! Once a month, this wonderful ministry of our church meets and visits home-bound, hospitalized, institutionalized parishioners, or any type of parishioner who cannot make it to church on their own. By doing so, these committed people bring a message of "We love you and care about you" to each of our shut-ins, fulfilling the Lord's call to visit those who are sick. Thank you. If you are interested in joining Community Link once a month, or even learning more about the program, contact Pauline Oetzel, now heading the program, at poetzel@hotmail.com. Community Link's next gathering is on Saturday, October 15 at 9 am. Sometimes just seeing familiar face is all someone needs to brighten their day. Please consider giving this joy to someone in need this month.

**Upcoming Community Link Meetings:
October 15, November 19, and December 17.**



Youth News- September 2011

Sunday School gets off to a great start!

Opening Day for Sunday School was a great success! Record numbers were in attendance and numbers grew even more the following week. It's not too late to join in and bring your children/grandchildren to church. Classes begin at 10:30 am. Father Niko is creating a calendar for those boys in Sunday School who would like to be in altar once/twice a month. Please let your teacher know if your child would like to be included.

October is a wonderful month for lessons. In lower school the youngest learn what is church, how to do their cross, light a candle and how to give. Is your child bringing an offering to church? In the middle grades they are learning about what God made—Earth, animals, etc. Then we will transition into being grateful. In the oldest classes we are discussing topics affecting the students in school such as bullying, relationships in school and communication to name a few. It is very interactive. No matter what age your child is ask them about the lesson each week, it makes for wonderful family discussions.

The last sunday in October is our annual Halloween celebration. Everyone is invited to wear a Halloween costume after the Divine Liturgy and enjoy a FREE luncheon sponsored by the Sunday School. The children will participate in a costume parade.

Our Christmas program will be here before you know it. Please let Denise know if you can help with arts and crafts, dressing children for the play, in the kitchen, etc. We need everyone's help.

Remember: If you can't bring your child to Sunday School, ask a godparent, grandparent or even a friend. We start at 10:30 am every week and always welcome visitors.

Denise Yeilding
Sunday School Principal

GOYA Indoor Soccer Night October 17

Following up on last year's successful GOYA indoor soccer night, our Cathedral GOYA will once again be holding an indoor soccer night in the Cathedral gym on Monday, October 17 at 6:30. GOYA will meet this year on every third Monday of the month, unless otherwise noted.

GOYA is for all Cathedral youth between grades 7-12; however, we will be starting up a Junior GOYA later this year, specifically for grades 7-9, as well. Thanks again to our GOYA leaders, **Harry Misthos**, **Katerina Loufas**, and **Manoli Nuris**. All are welcome!

JOY Group to Begin 2011-2012 Year October 11

Our wonderful JOY group, for Cathedral youth grades 3-6, will once again meet on the first Tuesday of the month, usually in the home of a JOY family. Our first meeting of this new school year will be on October 11 at 6:30 p.m., at the **Manetas home**, located at 610 Leo Drive, Foster City. Typically at a JOY meeting, the JOY kids play a game with **Father Niko**, have dinner, have a faith lesson, and then play some more! Last year, JOY proved to be a wonderful new ministry, and truly a "JOY" for parents and children!



Father Niko Bekris Assigned to Annunciation Cathedral as Full-Time Second Priest as of October 1

Amere six weeks after Deacon Niko Bekris' ordination to the holy priesthood on August 15 of this year, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos has assigned Father Niko Bekris to be the full-time second priest at the Cathedral! As such, this means that Father Niko will remain at the Cathedral for the near future, at least, and will no longer be splitting time between his responsibilities in our parish and as the Metropolis Youth Director. Both Father Niko and Presbytera Stella were thrilled to hear the news about their new assignment, and look forward to growing closer to the Lord as a community these next few years.

Currently, Father and Presbytera are on their vacation for this year, and will be returning on October 10. Let us all pray that the Lord will grant them strength, health, patience, and love in this new chapter of their life, and in the life of our community.

Many Thanks to All Who Helped with Father Niko's Forty Liturgies

From the day following his ordination to the priesthood, August 16, to September 24, Father Niko celebrated the Divine Liturgy every day, observing a beautiful custom of our Church, that is, for a newly ordained priest to celebrate liturgy for 40 consecutive days after his ordination, or, a ΣΑΡΑΝΤΑΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΟΝ. In addition to the wonderful parishioners who came during the week to offer their prayers for the new priest, there were several individuals who helped with the liturgy who deserve thanks: Deacon Chrysostom Gilbert, and Alexander Kozak who chanted the services during the week, as well as Nectarios McKnight and Marcelo Souza who assisted in the altar. Special thanks also go to Father Pete Sotiras (Holy Cross Church, Belmont), Father Nebojsa Pantic (Ascension Cathedral, Oakland), and Father Christos Kanakis (Saint Anthony Church, Pasadena) who took time away from their parish assignments to come assist Father Niko with his first liturgies.

Many, many heartfelt thanks! May God bless each of you and your families.



“Season Finale” by Rev. Niko Bekris

There are few things worse than the torture of waiting the whole Summer to find out what happens after your favorite TV show’s season finale! You watch a show the entire season (typically September to May), only to see a dramatic conclusion to all of that year’s stories in a two-hour episode that ends in a cliffhanger, and makes you wait three months to find out what happens next. Torture! I think the first time I ever saw a season finale, it was the “Who Shot Mr. Burns” episode of the Simpsons. As you can guess from the name, typically something “shocking” happens in the episode to grab your attention- a glee-club member has her baby, a character’s parent in Gossip Girl dies, someone gets married, and on and on and on. And, as is almost always the case, ratings go up in the process.

We here in the Metropolis Youth Office are going through our own “season finale,” if you will. Last August 15, after being a deacon for almost three years, by God’s grace I was ordained a priest at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. As of the first of this month, I am being assigned to the Cathedral on a full-time basis, and another youth director will be stepping into my position at the Metropolis. His name is Mr. Paul Gikas, and I am convinced he will do a great job serving you. He’s originally from San Diego, and has spent a lot of time in Chicago, and serving the Mother Church in Constantinople, as well. He has a wife and a three year-old son, and I know he’s going to be great in San Francisco.

As the next “season premiere” begins for the Metropolis Youth Office and for me, I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you. Thank you to God, first and foremost, and to Metropolitan Gerasimos for giving me this assignment three years ago. Thank you to all who have helped in any way, shape or form (and there have been many of you) in the Metropolis youth events that we have put together, also. Each of you have helped the Lord reach a young person’s life in doing so. Finally, thank you for welcoming me with open arms each time I visited your church, camp or retreat center. It has been an absolute blessing and joy for me to make such beautiful friendships up and down the West Coast. Please do keep in touch (I’m still on Facebook, but sorry, I haven’t put texting back on my phone plan yet...)!

The beauty of this season finale is that you won’t have to wait three months to find out what happens next. On the contrary, nothing will skip a beat. God willing, every Metropolis youth ministry will continue in 2011-2012 bigger and better than before, and you’ll become friends with your new Metropolis Youth Director in the process. And, hopefully, I will still see you at FDE, summer camp, the young adult winter retreat in Tahoe and any other event we may attend together. Let’s continue to try our best to follow our Lord as best we can by praying for each other, loving one another, and “committing ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to Christ our God.” God bless.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

Sotiris Alexandros Stathopoulos, son of **Dr. Niko** and **Voula Stathopoulos** was baptized at the Cathedral by his godparents, **George** and **Anastacia Ambus** on Saturday, August 12.

Zetta Eleni Ambus, daughter of **Dr. George** and **Tessa Ambus**, was baptized by her godparents, **Dustin** and **Chrisoula Novo** on Saturday, September 17.

Benjamin Gross, son of **Robert Harris** and **Catherine Marie Gross** was baptized by his godparents **Gregory Nicholas** and **Jenny Rebecca Dedo Efstratis** on September 17. *Na mas zisoun ta paidia!*

Chrismation

Alexandros (Dustin) Novo was chrismated Orthodox Christian at the Cathedral on Sunday, September 11. We warmly welcome him to our Cathedral family and community!

Funerals

Maria G. Eurotas, who fell asleep in the Lord September 19, was buried September 23.

We also extend condolences to the family of **Loys Daskarolis Rodatos**, who fell asleep in the Lord on August 2. We also extend condolences to the family of **Nick Tsiplakos**, who fell asleep in the Lord September 15. *Aionia i mnimi.*

Also in the month of August, **Deacon Niko Bekris** was ordained to the holy priesthood by **His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos** on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos. *Na hairomaste ton kainourio papa!*

Young Adults Help at 2011 Food Festival

On Thursday, September 22, our Cathedral Young Adult group met to help set out the tables and chairs the night before this year's food festival, and stayed for pizza and wine in the Conference Room! Nearly twenty young adults came to once again begin our young adult programming (after a brief hiatus in the summer time), and help set up for the festival in the process.



Some of our young adults who helped set up for this year's festival

This year's festival also saw the Cathedral young adults run the new spanakopita/tiropita booth! In all, 17 young adults volunteered their time at this particular booth throughout the weekend, and several more helped at the food line and other booths. It should be noted that our community is very proud of this outreach group, which has now become even more connected to the rest of our community!

Our next dinner is October 27, as our young adult group always holds a dinner somewhere in the City the last Thursday of every month. Young Adult ministry is open to ages 20-35.

For more information on any of the Cathedral's youth ministries, please contact Father Niko Bekris at fatherniko@annunciation.org, or visit the "Youth of Annunciation Cathedral" Facebook page.



O C T O B E R C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
						Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.		Greek Dance practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Basketball Practice Capital Campaign Committee Meeting 7 p.m.			Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.		JOY Meeting, Manetas home 6:30 p.m. Greek Dance practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Basketball Practice			Community Link, 9 am Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.	Nameday of Metropolitan Gerasimos GOYA Indoor Soccer Night 6:30	Greek Dance practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Basketball Practice Parish Council, 7 pm			Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.		Greek Dance practice, 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	Basketball Practice	Young Adult Dinner		Greek School at 10:00 am Eritrean School at Noon
30	31					
Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Sunday School 10:30 a.m.						



