



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

FEBRUARY 2012

ANNOUNCING OUR 2012 FESTIVAL CHAIRMEN

Met **Lea** and **Bob Lyberopoulos**. They are this year's festival chairmen. They stepped up to the plate when they began attending meetings of the 2011 Festival Committee and saw how their input could shape the festival. They have made the commitment to oversee this year's festival planning and execution, with a view to making it bigger, better, and more profitable. Lea is already involved in many other ways. For years, she has been a director in our dance group program. Bob has also been involved, as an adult basketball player. He brings to the festival his years of experience as a member of Oakland's Ascension Cathedral community, which has one of the largest festivals in the Bay Area. We look forward to working with Lea and Bob on the Cathedral's 2012 festival, "A Taste of Greece," which will take place at the Cathedral, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Friday, September 28, Saturday, September 29 and Sunday, September 30. Meanwhile, our monthly festival planning meetings have already begun. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, January 25. If you would like to lend your expertise in this way, we invite you to become a part of the planning process. Please e mail Lea and Bob at llyberopoulos@Sanderling.com

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SURPASSES \$2.2 MILLION

The Capital Campaign has surpassed the \$2.2 million mark, in pledges and gifts, as of January 31, 2012. Of this amount, \$1.447 million has already been contributed, leaving a balance of \$764,500. Donors elect whether to pay all at once, or in installments (monthly, quarterly, or annually) up to five years. The \$2.2 million was raised from 47 donors, as follows: 1 at \$630,000; 1 at \$394,000; 2 at \$150,000; 2 at \$100,000; 1 at \$64,000; 3 at \$50,000; 1 at \$35,000; 1 at \$30,000; 4 at \$25,000; 2 at \$20,000; 1 at \$18,500; 1 at \$17,500; 4 at \$15,000; 2 at \$12,000; 12 at \$10,000; 1 at \$7,500; 3 at \$5,000; 1 at \$3,000; and 4 at \$1,000.

Approximately \$1 million has been paid out so far, for architectural, engineering, consultant, and Planning Department fees, leaving a \$5,419,000 balance in the Building Fund. We need \$10 million to build the Cathedral and one level of underground parking, leaving another \$4 million to be raised. We believe this is reasonable, since we have raised over \$2 million from only 10% of the community! Toward this end, the Capital Campaign Committee is calling families and individuals with a view to scheduling visits with Fr. Anthony Scott and/or Fr. Stephen Kyriacou, Fr. Niko Bekris, along with a member of the Capital Campaign Committee. Father Scott will be at the Cathedral February 1-7, 2012. During this time he will coordinate conference calls with committee members, conduct meetings of the Capital Campaign Committee, make visitations, and follow up with prospective donors. In addition, he will get the Legacy and Endowment Program and the Endowment Committee up and running. This will provide for post-construction and programmatic support, for the long-term well-being of the Cathedral. Father Anthony will visit the Cathedral on a monthly basis for one week at a time, generally the first week of each month, through June, 2012.

Meanwhile, we urge parishioners not to wait to be called. We urge them to take the initiative to set up a day and time when it is convenient for them to meet to learn about our project and the timetable for its completion, to participate in the Capital Campaign, to the extent to which they are able, and/or to discuss their participation in the Cathedral's Legacy and Endowment Program. We are blessed indeed that we have been the beneficiaries of those who established the Cathedral community and who have provided for it these past 90 years of its existence. Now it is our turn to step up and declare what we will do for the generations that will follow us, mindful of the words God spoke through Moses, when he said, "Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you." (Exodus 25:8)

2012 Schedule for Psychosavato (Saturday of Souls) Services

As we all know, in the Orthodox Christian Church, Sundays are celebrated as the day of the Resurrection. What is less known is that, conversely, Saturdays are meant to be days to commemorate those who have passed on. Traditionally, each Saturday a local parish would celebrate memorial services at which people would bring *kollyva*. Given that, in this country at least, parishioners typically do not live very close to their home parish, memorial services were bumped to be celebrated following Divine Liturgy since all were gathered.

The older tradition of memorial services on a Saturday, however, does survive in the tradition of the Saturday of Souls or “*psychosavaton*,” three of which are celebrated right before the beginning of Great Lent. Please note that this year’s schedule of services for the Saturdays of Souls, or, *psychosavata*, at the Greek Orthodox Memorial Park cemetery chapel will be as follows:

February 18- (First Saturday of Souls)- Divine Liturgy, 10 am, Fr. Aris Metrakos celebrating (Father Stephen and Father Niko at FDF)

February 25- (Second Saturday of Souls)- Divine Liturgy, 10 am, Father Stephen and Father Niko celebrating

March 3- (Third Saturday of Souls)- Divine Liturgy, 10 am at Annunciation Cathedral

Please feel free to bring names of any loved ones who have passed on from this life, and *kollyva* for their memorial service, if you wish.



This year’s new members of the parish council taking the oath of office and being sworn in on January 8.

PARISH ASSEMBLY TO CONVENE ON MARCH 11

Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend the first regular Parish Assembly for 2012 to take place in the Cathedral’s Korinthias Hall on Sunday, March 11, following the Divine Liturgy. The Agenda is as follows:

Opening Prayer

1. Election of Assembly Chair
2. Reading/Approval of the November 13, 2011 Minutes of the Parish Assembly
3. Treasurer’s Report
4. Reports:
 - a. Stewardship
 - b. 2012 Festival
 - c. Youth
 - d. Metropolis Clergy-Laity Congress (Held at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center January 16-17, 2012)
5. Plans for rebuilding the Cathedral Church
6. Report of the Board of Auditors
7. Election Nominating Committee (Parish Council elections will take place on Sunday, December 9, 2012, which is also the date of Stewardship Sunday, with a luncheon following the Divine Liturgy. Seven individuals will be elected to serve a two-year term.)
8. Election of Delegates to the Archdiocese Clergy-Laity Congress (To be held in Phoenix, AZ July 2-5, 2012)

9. Old Business

10. New Business

Closing Prayer

Parishioners in good standing (that is, those who are ecclesiastically in good standing with the Orthodox Church, as defined in the Archdiocese Regulations, and who have met their stewardship obligations to the Cathedral) may participate in the Parish Assembly. Quorum requirements, as defined in the Parish By-Laws are: 75% of the Parish Council (i.e. 12 out of 15 members), an equal number of other parishioners in good standing, plus the Dean of the Cathedral or, if fewer than 12 members of the Parish Council are present, then 75 parishioners in good standing, plus the Dean of the Cathedral.

ΓΕΝΙΚΗ ΣΥΝΕΛΕΥΣΗ ΣΤΙΣ 11 ΜΑΡΤΙΟΥ

Τα μέλη του Καθεδρικού Ναού καλούνται στη πρώτη Γενική Συνέλευση των μελών, που θα λάβει χώραν εις την μεγάλη αίθουσα συνεδρίασης την Κυριακή 11 Μαρτίου μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία. Τα θέματα συζήτησης είναι ως ακολούθως:

Προσευχή

1. Εκλογή προέδρου συνέλευσης
 2. Πρακτικά Γενικής Συνέλευσης 13ης Νοεμβρίου 2011
 3. Απολογισμός Ταμεία
 4. Αναφορές: Στούαρντσιπ, Φεστιβάλ, Νεολαίας, Κληρικο-Λαϊκής Συνέλευσης της Μητροπόλεως, που έλαβε χώρα στο Ίδρυμα του Αγ. Νικολάου, 16-17 Ιανουαρίου, 2012
 5. Οικοδομή Ναού, πάρκιγκ
 6. Αναφορά Εξελεγκτικής Επιτροπής
 7. Εκλογή Ονομαστικής Επιτροπής (για τις εκλογές 7 μελών του Κοινοτικού Συμβουλίου στις 9 Δεκεμβρίου 2012)
 8. Εκλογή εκπροσώπων εις την Κληρικο-Λαϊκή Συνέλευση της Ι. Αρχιεπισκοπής, που θα λάβει χώραν εις τον Φοίνικα, Αριζόνας 2-5 Ιουλίου 2012
 9. Παλαιά θέματα
 10. Νέα θέματα
- Προσευχή

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Happy Hearts Month to all! February is membership month and we look forward to hosting new members to be part of one of the largest Christian Philanthropic organizations with an "army of over 28,000 members in the United States who serve those in need."

Our Philoptochos events in January were all very successful. Starting with our Vasilopita luncheon on January 8, we enjoyed a delicious luncheon and breaking of our Vasilopita breads made with the loving hands of our Philoptochos Ladies. Many of us won the coins for good luck. I thank all those ladies who worked so tirelessly to make the breads and to set a lovely presentation for the day.

Our ladies and community also honored past President **Angie Leventis** at the luncheon. Angie's ten year tenure was saluted by remarks and presentations by **Father Stephen Kyriacou**, Philoptochos secretary **Kathy Dermitzakis**, Angie's daughter **Kathy Truog**, Parish Council President **Tom Nuris**, His Eminence **Metropolitan Gerasimos** and by me. Angie was also presented with a diamond cross in recognition of her years of hard work for Philoptochos. Angie's diligence and organizational skills helped not only Philoptochos but also the entire Cathedral community. As she mentioned in her acceptance speech she will always work to serve her community and Philoptochos. *Axial!*

As I write this article we are preparing for our annual crab feed on January 27th. This year we celebrate 30 years of this successful event which raises funds to support our many ministries and programs. Our reservations are over 400 and counting. What a great event!

We are looking forward to preparing for March 25th which is the feast of the Annunciation, our Easter bake in April, our Mother's day luncheon in May and of course our Taste of Greece festival in September. We are always busy!

I leave you with this quote from Helen Keller- "*The best and beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched but they must be felt with the heart.*"

Patricia Aleck, President



Metropolitan Gerasimos saying a few words about Angie



Metropolitan Gerasimos cutting our parish vasilopita with Fr. Stephen and Fr. Niko



Angie cutting cake with Pat Aleck and her granddaughters, Nicole and Chloe!

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Korner

February starts with a lesson on the Presentation of the Lord and Prodigal Son and continues with classic bible stories. Lessons of God's love will be emphasized. We begin our Lenten lessons (Lent begins February 20) and continue throughout March. This is an important time for our youth to learn about the foundations of our beliefs.

March 4th is the Sunday of Orthodoxy and our Sunday School classes will participate in a procession with Icons immediately following the Divine Liturgy. We encourage each student to bring an icon from home to use in the procession.

Annunciation Oratorical Festival will be held March 11, 2012 immediately following the Dive Liturgy in the Chapel. Please encourage your children grades 5 – 12 to participate. The subjects for the 7th grade through 12th grade are on the archdiocese website, www.goarch.org The website is a fantastic resource. Our classes have started working on their speeches. Please give our youth encouragement to participate. It's a valuable and fun experience.

Volunteers are needed to help organize our costume closet and work on our bulletin boards. Also needed are volunteers to help judge our Oratorical Festival in March. Can you help motivate or teach our children how to write a speech? Volunteers, please contact **Denise Yeilding** at dyeilding@yahoo.com.

We encourage parents/grandparents to bring their children to Sunday School at 10:30 am.

Sunday School Calendar 2012- Notable Dates

March 11	Annunciation Oratorical Festival
April 8	Palm Sunday
April 13	TGI Pascha
April 15	Easter/ no classes held
May 27	No classes
June 3	Last day of classes, Graduation/Luncheon

In closing, I'd like to leave you with some thoughts which we feel accurately express our goal and mission as a Sunday School program and as a parish:

“Our children are facing increasing social pressures and questionable values from the media and other sources. The Church is a place where traditional values and wholesome fellowship is taught and encouraged.

Of course, our primary emphasis is - and should be - on the spiritual formation of our children. For their sake, we encourage our parents to make attendance at various liturgical services and Sunday School a priority. They may also profit from participation in our St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival, which is not only offered for the middle and high school kids, but we also are continuing this year with our elementary division, so that the younger ones can also get experience in expressing their faith before an audience.

The youth groups of our parish not only provide further opportunities for spiritual activities but also for fun social activities such as our outings and dance groups.

In 2012, let's make a goal to strive for perfect attendance, arriving to Sunday School and other activities in a timely manner, looking for opportunities to participate in both the spiritual and fun activities, but also making an effort to attend special services (e.g. such as during the Great Lent). Let's put God first in our lives - and in our children's lives - not just in words, but in action as well.

May the blessings of the All-Holy Trinity be upon you and your family for the New Year.”

Welcoming the New Year with JOY

Last January 10, our Cathedral JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) group met at the home of **Chris** and **Irene Kyriacou** in Belmont for our monthly meeting. Ten of our JOY kids played a fun game called “Who's Your Hero,” to open the session, followed by dinner and then an *agiasmos* or service of the blessing of the waters as our lesson for the month. Last year, our JOY cut a *vasilopita* for our January meeting, both of which are wonderful educational tools for our young people to learn about our faith.

IONIAN VILLAGE REGISTRATION OPENS FOR SUMMER 2012

Ionian Village, the summer camping ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America, is now accepting registrations for its Summer 2012 programs. Operating from a beautiful seafront campsite on western Peloponnesus in Greece, Ionian Village brings its campers and staff into close contact with their faith and heritage as they travel throughout the country to sites of cultural and religious importance. Ionian Village offers two camping sessions: Summer Travel Camp and Byzantine Venture. Registration is open to Greek Orthodox youth who have completed grades 7 through 12. This summer will also see the expansion of the Spiritual Odyssey program, shorter pilgrimage-style trips for young adults ages 19 to 28. Three unique programs are being offered.

For more information about any of the Ionian Village programs, or to participate in this summer's programs, visit www.ionianvillage.org or contact the Office of Ionian Village at (212) 570-3536.

OCF REAL BREAK

Do something REAL this Spring Break!

The Real Break program provides alternatives to the traditional Spring Break for college students. It exists to provide students with the most authentic experience possible, and is modeled as a full Christian lifestyle, which includes fellowship, prayer within community, witness and service. Each spring, over 100 students attend various trips, both domestic and international, to give of themselves to those less fortunate and to do something real for themselves and for God. OCF Real Break has been running since 2000 with over one thousand students participating in these life-changing opportunities.

Current trips include: Toronto, Houston, Constantinople, Guatemala, Romania, and Project Mexico. For more information or to register for OCF REAL BREAK 2012, please visit <https://events.ocf.net/>.

It should be noted that both of these youth ministries offered by the Archdiocese have now been going (and growing!) for the last fifteen years with rave reviews.

Young Adults Organize Community Service Project with Meals on Wheels

Continuing with the trend of broadening our young adult events to include outreach and faith programs, our Cathedral Young Adult group organized a community service project and dinner on Thursday, January 26. The group met in the Cathedral conference room to put together around 100 greeting cards for the SF-based charity Meals on Wheels. This non-profit organization provides care and assistance to roughly 2,000 homebound seniors in San Francisco, providing food, home maintenance, visitations, and greeting cards for every holiday of the year! Given how important charity programs such as this are, our young adults were more than happy to help.

This program was followed by dinner at The Grove, a new restaurant on Hayes and Franklin Streets, and a great time was had by all, as usual!

****For more information on any of the Cathedral's youth groups, please contact Father Niko Bekris at fatherniko@annunciation.org.****

GOYA Bowling Night

Our Cathedral GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) held a bowling night on January 23 at Serra Bowl in Daly City! It was the first time our GOYA had gone bowling, and was a great time for those who came. Thanks again to our GOYA leaders **Katerina Loufas, Harry Misthos** and **Manoli Nuris**.

Beginning in March, GOYA will also be holding one meeting a month at the Cathedral, in addition to the one event we do. Please stay tuned for information on upcoming events.

Because the month of February is typically peak-season for our folk dance program (due to the annual Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (FDF)), both JOY and GOYA will resume the month of March.

****A reminder that JOY is open to all youth grades 3-6, and GOYA is open to all youth grades 7-12****



Sacraments and Services

BAPTISMS

Franco Koutoulas, son of **Gus** and **Stephanie Koutoulas**, was baptized at the Cathedral on November 27, and given the name **Theofanis Franco** by his godparents, **Nikolaos** and **Armineh Vafiadis**.

Michael Esterline, son of **Karen** and **Michael Esterline**, was baptized at the Cathedral on December 11, and given the name **Demetrios Christos** by his godfather, **Yannis Lagos**.

FUNERALS :

Katherine Coreris, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 24, 2011 was buried on January 4, 2012. She is survived by her husband, **Gus**, her children, **Mike Coreris** and **Luci Selby**, and their families.

Emily Panages, who fell asleep in the Lord January 5, was buried January 12. She is survived by her husband, **Thomas Panages**, and daughters, **Melissa Strickland** and **Alicia Mayfield**.

Aionia i mnimi! (Eternal memory!)

HAPS Luncheon at Cathedral February 12

The Hellenic American Professional Society (HAPS) will commemorate Greek Letters Day on Sunday, February 12 at the Annunciation Cathedral, with an *Artoclasia*, honoring scholars. A luncheon will follow the Liturgy at 1:00 p.m. in the Korinthias Hall where the prestigious AXION award will be presented to Andrew T. Banis and our own choir director Nick Tarlson. Theodore Madias, Andrew Vavuris, and Kevin L. Webster, Jr. will be awarded scholarships. Please call Jason Bezis at (925) 962-9643 or email at jbezis@yahoo.com for reservations, which are \$50.00 per person.

“If we use crumbs of wasted time to try to build short moments for recollection and prayer, we may discover that there is quite a lot of it.”

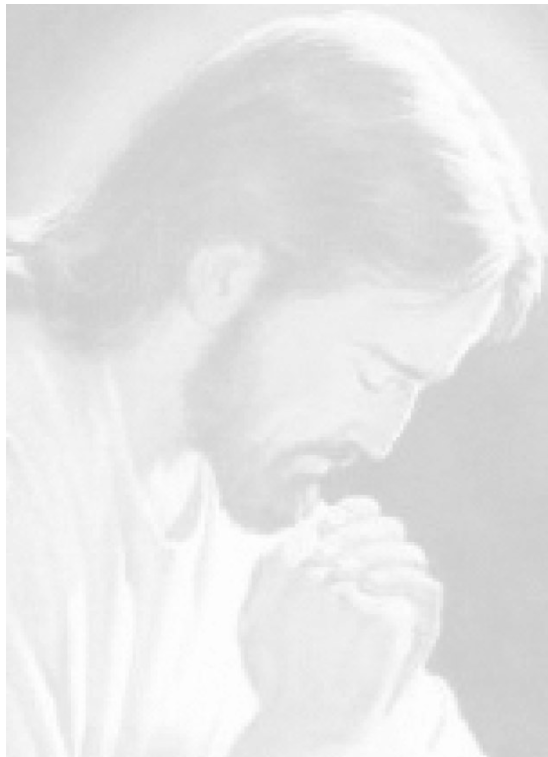
- Archbishop Anthony Bloom



December 2011: Some of our young adults from their Kris Kringle Gift Exchange/Dinner in December

F E B R U A R Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			B Team Basketball Practice- 7-9 pm	Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, 9:00am Orthros, 10:00 Divine Liturgy C Team Basketball Practice 7-8 pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Sunday School at 10:30, Orthros at 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am No Basketball Games (Super Bowl Sunday) Altar Group 1			B Team Basketball Practice- 7-9 pm	C Team Basketball Practice 7-8 pm		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Sunday School at 10:30, Orthros at 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am Annunciation Boys B Team at Holy Cross, Belmont, 11 am Altar Group 2			B Team Basketball Practice- 7-9 pm	C Team Basketball Practice 7-8 pm Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (FDF) in Anaheim, CA	Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (FDF) in Anaheim, CA	Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (FDF) in Anaheim, CA First Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy at Cemetery Chapel, 10 am (Fr. Aris)
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Sunday School at 10:30, Orthros at 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (FDF) in Anaheim, CA	Presidents' Day Metropolis Folk Dance Festival (FDF) in Anaheim, CA		B Team Basketball Practice- 7-9 pm	C Team Basketball Practice 7-8 pm		Second Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy at Cemetery Chapel, 10 am (Fr. Stephen/ Fr. Niko) Annunciation Boys C Team at Saint Nicholas, San Jose 2 pm
26	27	28	29	MARCH 1	2	3
Sunday School at 10:30, Orthros at 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy at 10:30 am Annunciation Boys C Team at Ascension, Oakland, 4 pm Annunciation Boys B Team at Holy Trinity, SF, 3pm Altar Group 3			B Team Basketball Practice- 7-9 pm	C Team Basketball Practice 7-8 pm		Third Saturday of Souls, Divine Liturgy at Cathedral, 10 am (Fr. Stephen/ Fr. Niko) OYAA Basketball Playoffs, Location TBD
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
OYAA Basketball Championships, Location TBD						



PRAYER OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES

Lord Jesus Christ, by your presence you blessed the wedding in Cana and showed us that you are the true priest of mystical and pure marriage. WE thank you for the day on which by your heavenly benediction you joined us in the sacrament of matrimony. Lord, continue to bless and enrich our marriage in love, companionship, mutual support, oneness of heart, and progress in faith and life. Protect our holy wedlock from sin, evil, and danger. Foster between us the spirit of understanding, the spirit of forgiveness, and the spirit of peace, that no resentment, quarrel, or other problem cause us to stumble and fall. Grant us to see our own faults and not to judge each other. Keep our bond of love always new. Gladden our hearts with the joys of marriage, that with one heart we may praise and glorify you. Amen.