



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD

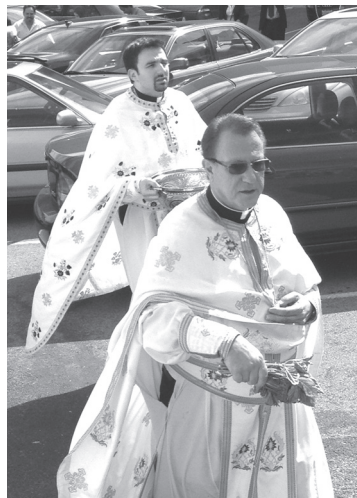


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NOVEMBER 2013

## CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON NEW CATHEDRAL!!

We have broken ground on our new Cathedral! On October 6th, Father Stephen and Father Niko led the congregation in a procession and blessed the construction site. The contract with McNely Construction Company was signed on October 8, and the



building permit was issued by the city on October 17, exactly twenty-four years to the day after the Loma Prieta earthquake destroyed the original Cathedral. McNely construction company has moved their equipment and workers onto our site and have begun to break ground as of Tuesday, October 22! The first tasks include mobilizing onto the site, removing the parking lot pavement, and demolishing the courtyard fountain, pavement, and the covered walk along the west side of the courtyard.

This is THE major milestone we have all been anticipating since the old Cathedral was destroyed by the Loma Prieta earthquake. This is a momentous occasion for our community, and by God's grace, we will see it through.

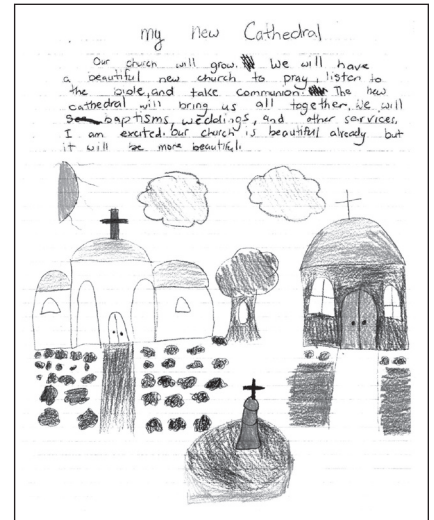
If you have yet to make a gift to the



Building Project and would like to, please contact the Cathedral office at (415) 864-8000 to speak with Father Stephen or Father Niko. All commitments are greatly appreciated, no matter the amount.

*"God protects and loves the charitable and philanthropic person."*

– St. John Chrysostom



After liturgy on October 13, some of our Sunday School students presented speeches about what the new Cathedral means to them.

## MATCHING GIFTS FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT

A few weeks ago, one of our dedicated parishioners informed us that the company she works for offered to match any contributions made by any of their employees to non-profit organizations. The individual had already pledged \$25,000. over five years to the building project, and had already submitted one payment in the amount of \$5,000. this year. Recently, we were notified that the company would be sending a check for the same amount. This means that, potentially, this individual's pledge will go from \$25,000 to \$50,000!

If you have already pledged to the Capital Campaign and submitted a payment this year, or are planning to do so in the future, please inquire if your employer has a similar policy of matching gifts to non-profits. Please join us as we embark on this historic time in the history of our community. Every bit helps!



## WHAT DOES MY GIFT TO THE BUILDING FUND REALLY AMOUNT TO OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD?

Below are some different ways to look at how you can make a meaningful gift.

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

### PARISH ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 10; PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS DECEMBER 15

Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend the second regular Parish Assembly for 2013. This will take place in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall on Sunday, November 11 (which is also Stewardship Sunday), following the Divine Liturgy.

The Agenda is as follows:

Opening Prayer

1. Election of Assembly Chair
  2. Reading/Approval of the April 7, 2013 Minutes of the Parish Assembly
  3. Treasurer's Report
  - 4 Other reports:
    - a. Stewardship
    - b. 2013 Festival
    - c. 2014 Archdiocese Clergy Laity
    - d. Second International Conference on Religious Freedom
  5. THE REBUILDING OF THE CATHEDRAL  
(the main focus of this Assembly)
    - a. Where we are and where we need to be financially
    - b. Timetable for Completion
  6. Election of Nikki Pappas to the Board of Auditors
  7. Report of the Nominating Committee (Following their report, the Nominating Committee effectively becomes the Board of Elections. As such, it will oversee the Parish Council elections, which will take place on Sunday, December 15, 2013, following the Divine Liturgy. Those elected will serve a two-year term. The terms of eight Parish Council members expire this year.)
  8. Old Business
  9. New Business
- Closing Prayer

Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend the second regular Parish Assembly for 2013. This will take place in the Chapel, right at the end of the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, November 10. We will have a little different format for this Parish Assembly, whose primary purpose is to inform and to inspire. And, so, we will dispense with the reading of Minutes of the last Assembly, the Treasurer's Report and other reports and go straight to the heart of the matter. As the Assembly coincides with our 2014 Stewardship Campaign, we will ask our Parish Council President, Dean Nicolacakis, to address where we are with the REBUILDING OF THE CATHEDRAL and introduce a photo montage of the history of the Cathedral. We will then play the video for you, accompanied by the new Tikey Zes Divine Liturgy, recently mastered by Cappella Romana. The CD has been dedicated to the rebuilding of the Cathedral. Gus Vouchilas, as Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, will conclude with a powerful message, "Now it All Begins," and Father Stephen will offer a summary. As it is a Parish Assembly, we will present the slate of those running for Parish Council on December 15 and invite your approval of an additional member to the Board of Auditors. The Assembly should conclude in less than an hour., plus the Dean of the Cathedral.

*"And now I bend the knee of my heart, beseeching Your goodness."*

- A prayer of Manasseh, King of Judah,  
from the Great Complaine service

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## “I Will Walk Among You”

by Rev. Niko Bekris

October 6, 2013

*The following sermon was offered by Father Niko on Sunday, October 6, the Sunday before construction began on the new Cathedral*

A few Sundays ago Presbytera Stella and I celebrated five years of serving at Annunciation Cathedral. This journey has been something that we are very thankful to God for, as we feel we are blessed to be in this community in this period of our life. Five years to the two of us feels like a good deal of time, however, it's little more than a drop in the bucket when one considers the 90+ years of existence of this community.

The journey of this community over these last nine decades has been filled with monumental achievements, a great deal of history, and a great legacy. This journey has been filled with many sorrows and many joys, many blessings and many challenges. But perhaps the most monumental moment in the history of the Annunciation Cathedral happened almost a quarter of a century ago, in 1989, during the Loma Prieta earthquake, when the original Cathedral was destroyed. At that moment, 24 years ago, the journey of this community- the walk- of this community- became a wandering. This moment may have also been the greatest blessing the Cathedral was ever given. But we'll come back to that.

I recall when I first came to this community five years ago and was speaking with Father Stephen about its history and the challenges that face us today, I remember him saying, “Do you know what it's like to not have a home? To have to worship out of a warehouse for a period of years?” This period of wandering was filled with much debate and much controversy- whether to move or to stay; whether to move to the suburbs or move to another part of San Francisco; what kind of building to build first, and more. The community could have dissipated after the earthquake... but it didn't. It stayed together, stronger than before.

And now... at long, long, long last... this week, by God's grace, there will be shovels going into this ground right next to us, and construction will begin on the new Annunciation Cathedral. At long last! After decades of wandering during our journey, and much deliberation, this community has pooled its resources together, and raised enough of the money needed to begin construction on the new church. The Lord has guided our journey to this point.

Hand in hand with the building of a new church comes the question, What is our purpose? What are we here to do? What is our mission in the Mission? There are many ways to answer this, and we'll get back to that one, too (but let's think about it).

Saint Paul was someone who knew about journeys and wandering and hardships, sleeping on planks of wood on ships, tossed by storms in the eastern Mediterranean. He was stoned, beaten, imprisoned, traveling through deserts and mountains on his mission trips for the sake of the Gospel. He knew about joys and sorrows. He knew about blessings and challenges. He wrote two letters to the people of Corinth. We read a passage from his second letter today. In it he says:

“It is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people, it may

increase thanksgiving for the glory of God.” (4:15)

It is all for YOU!! It is God's grace that guides us! It is God's grace that guided Paul, and it is God's grace that has guided us! And as this grace has increased over the course of over 90 years, bringing us to where we are today.

It is all by God's grace! We receive grace individually as Christians, as people of God. We receive grace on the day of our baptism. Grace guides our parish family, our families, our homes, and us individually, no matter the circumstance. We may feel abandoned when going through hardships, but God is with us every step, every moment. “All good things are from you, the Father of lights,” we say in the Divine Liturgy. Truly, everything good comes about by God's grace- children, our homes, joys, vacations, everything.

We often hear the word “testament,” and the word “covenant.” Both are used interchangeably, especially when referring to the Old and New Testaments, or Covenants. We may ask ourselves, What do these words mean? Both mean “a promise.” They refer to a promise that God made to humanity thousands of years ago, and then a new promise which He made in a special way thousands of years later, through Jesus Christ. A “promise” implies a special relationship.

Perhaps my favorite verse in the entire Bible comes from the book of Leviticus:

*“I will make My dwelling among you, and My soul shall not abhor you. And I will walk among you, and will be your God, and you shall be My people.”*

(26:11-12)

This verse is repeated some 28 times in the Old Testament as an affirmation. We are inheritors of this promise (and it is a promise). As inheritors of this promise, we are comforted knowing that He has walked with us these 90 years. He has been right there with us. Always.

Therefore, knowing that it is by His grace that we have reached this point, we come back to our original question of What is our purpose here?

Our purpose is to give thanks.

It is to “increase thanksgiving to the glory of God,” as St. Paul said. We show this in many ways- by helping one another, by helping the people of the inner city, by teaching our youth our culture and our faith- many ways. But ultimately, it all falls under the umbrella of giving thanks. It is my fervent prayer that, in the coming years, we may flesh out the specifics of just what our mission is, as we move forward.

Soon, we will have a hole in the ground outside. And, God willing, a little over a year after that, this window to my left won't have as much light as before. Of course, by then, we will have light of a different kind shining through. The tremendous

*Continued next page*



fulfillment and sense of purpose that will come with its completion would not have been possible without the wandering of the last quarter century. It is my hope and prayer that our thanksgiving will continue through this project and on to our 100th anniversary, then 100 years after that, and 100 years after that, and on and on! Let us remember God's grace, so that, in our journey with Him, we may continue to give thanks unto His glory—unto our salvation, and the salvation of the whole world. Amen.

## Luminous Darkness? Dazzling Darkness!

by Marcelo P. Souza

Saint Gregory Palamas, in attempting to explain the vision of the divine light, the divine energies, makes several points worthy of note:

First, it is not a mere negation, a mere expression of the apophatic way. Rather, it goes beyond negation; when one sees the divine light, one sees something, one does not see the void.

However, secondly, one does not see by mere positive apprehension of discursive or intellectual knowledge either. It is something that is apprehended directly, and beyond both the knowing of reason and the unknowing.

Third, it is a divinizing union of the pure heart with the very being of God, in his energies. And this is through grace, not intellectual effort.

Fourth, and therefore, it is something that is not seen either with the senses – it is not seen with the eye – not with the discursive intellect. (Thus, it is not a symbolic theophany given to the senses, as, e.g., Augustine had argued in *De Trinitate*).

Fifth, it is a participation in God, a mystical union, a deification, the call and destiny of Christians.

“It is a Luminous Darkness, as St Gregory of Nyssa had put it (see the about section of the blog), or, as St Gregory Palamas (citing the Areopagite) puts it, a Dazzling Darkness.

So, when the saints contemplate this divine light within themselves, seeing it by the divinising communion of the Spirit, through the mysterious visitation of perfecting illuminations—then they behold the garment of their deification, their mind being glorified and filled by the grace of the Word, beautiful beyond measure in His splendour; just as the divinity of the Word on the mountain glorified with divine light the body conjoined to it.

For “the glory which the Father gave Him”, He Himself has given

to those obedient to Him, as the Gospel says, and “He willed that they should be with Him and contemplate His glory” . . .

No one has ever seen the fullness of this divine Beauty, and this is why, according to Gregory of Nyssa, no eye has seen it, even if it gaze forever: in fact, it does not see the totality such as it is, but only in the measure in which it is rendered receptive to the power of the Holy Spirit.

But in addition to this incomprehensibility, what is most divine and extraordinary is that the very comprehension a man may have, he possesses incomprehensibly. Those who see, in fact, do not know the one who enables them to see, hear and be initiated into knowledge of the future, or experience of eternal things, for the Spirit by whom they see is incomprehensible.

As the great Denys says, “Such a union of those divinised with the light that comes from on high takes place by virtue of a cessation of all intellectual activity.” It is not the product of a cause or a relationship, for these are dependent upon the activity of the intellect, but it comes to be by abstraction, without itself being that abstraction.

If it were simply abstraction, it would depend on us, and this is the Messalian doctrine, “to mount as far as one wills into the ineffable mysteries of God”, as St. Isaac says of these heretics.

Contemplation, then, is not simply abstraction and negation; it is a union and a divinisation which occurs mystically and ineffably by the grace of God, after the stripping away of everything from here below which imprints itself on the mind, or rather after the cessation of all intellectual activity; it is something which goes beyond abstraction (which is only the outward mark of the cessation).

This is why every believer has to separate off God from all His creatures, for the cessation of all intellectual activity and the resulting union with the light from on high is an experience and a divinising end, granted solely to those who have purified their hearts and received grace.

And what am I to say of this union, when the brief vision itself is manifested only to chosen disciples, disengaged by ecstasy from all perception of the senses or intellect, admitted to the true vision because they have ceased to see, and endowed with supernatural senses by their submission to unknowing? But we intend to show later on, by God's aid, that though they have indeed seen, yet their organ of vision was, properly speaking, neither the senses nor the intellect.

Do you now understand that in place of the intellect, the eyes and ears, they acquire the incomprehensible Spirit and by Him hear, see and comprehend? For if all their intellectual activity has stopped, how could the angels and angelic men see God except by the power of the Spirit?

This is why their vision is not a sensation, since they do not receive it through the senses; nor is it intellection, since they do not find it through thought or the knowledge that comes thereby, but after the cessation of all mental activity.

It is not, therefore, the product of either imagination or reason; it is neither an opinion nor a conclusion reached by syllogistic argu-



Saint Gregory Palamas

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ment. On the other hand, the mind does not acquire it simply by elevating itself through negation. . . .

Similarly, beyond the stripping away of beings, or rather after the cessation [of our perceiving or thinking of them] accomplished not only in words, but in reality, there remains an unknowing which is beyond knowledge; though indeed a darkness, it is yet beyond radiance, and, as the great Denys says, it is in this dazzling darkness that the divine things are given to the saints.

Thus the perfect contemplation of God and divine things is not simply an abstraction; but beyond this abstraction, there is a participation in divine things, a gift and a possession rather than just a process of negation.

But these possessions and gifts are ineffable: If one speaks of them, one must have recourse to images and analogies—not because that is the way in which these things are seen, but because one cannot adumbrate what one has seen in any other way.

Those, therefore, who do not listen in a reverent spirit to what is said about these ineffable things, which are necessarily expressed through images, regard the knowledge that is beyond wisdom as foolishness. . . .” – St. Gregory Palamas

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Greetings from Philoptochos! The last months of the year are busy ones for Philoptochos. We hope you will join us in the following events. Your support is vital to all our projects in His Name.

On November 3, 2013 we will join His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and our Annunciation Parish Council and Philoptochos to say farewell to Ambassador Ioannis Andreades at a luncheon following services. The Ambassador has been a presence in our Church community. Please join us as we wish him well as he leaves San Francisco. He will be missed...

Our Annual Thanksgiving Luncheon will be held on Sunday, November 24, 2013 following Church service. We will join the Stewardship committee on that day as they kick off Stewardship for the 2014 year. Join us as we start the Holiday season to break bread together in the spirit of love and camaraderie. Also, the Stewardship committee will provide us with lots of information and guidance in this year of building for our Cathedral. You won't want to miss this fun and informative luncheon.

Our Angel Tree Project will be up and running at our Thanksgiving Luncheon. The support of all your gifts will go to one or two very worthy organizations. As always your generous gifts and donations are over the top and mean a great deal to those less fortunate. You can pick up your ornaments and be part of this worthy project.

In December we support the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund sponsored by the Metropolis Philoptochos Board. It will be held on Saturday, December 7, 2013 at Nativity of Christ Greek Orthodox Church in Novato, CA. The Light the Path Luncheon is a magnificent and enjoyable event filled with Christmas cheer and décor. The room is filled with beautifully decorated trees donated by all the chapters of the Metropolis. It

is truly delightful to watch the excitement of those taking a fully decorated tree home. Not only is this luncheon enjoyable but all who attend support the scholarships we give to the Seminarians/Students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Brookline Massachusetts. Please check the Save the Date and let us know if you can attend so we can arrange tables for the luncheon.

**Please put the following date on your calendar:  
Philoptochos Annual Crab Feed – Friday, January 31, 2014.**

I look forward to sharing with you at all the events.

*With love in Christ,*

*Patricia Aleck, Philoptochos President*

## **Xronia Polla for Namedays in November!**

Best wishes to the following individuals who celebrate their namedays in November:

Angie Augustus	Nektarios L. McKnight
Angie Leventis	Michael Mountanos
Andrew Allen	Katerina Nicolacakis
Katerina Haras Cazanis	Andrew Nuris
Philip Chiappari	Matthew Nuris
Andrew Curd	Efstratia Nuris
Katherine Dermitzakis	Catherine Pantages
Stylios Diamantopoulos	Andrew Dimitriou
Philip Economopoulos	Andrew Vavuris
Angelike Galanis	Nektaria Zambia Warren
Katie Grohs	Philip Athanasiades
Katerina Karsant	Kay Rangaves
Michael Kasolas and Stella Pantazis	Michele Siouris
Katherine Johns	Michael Stamatopoulos
Angelo Kottas	Michael and Katherine Truog
Stelios Kyriacou	Stelios Vafiadis
Father Stephen Kyriacou	Andrew Vellis
Presbytera Stella Bekris	Angelo J. Vorrises
Kathryn Mares	Andrew Weiner
	Katie Yeilding

Saints Cosmas and Damian, the Unmercenarys, November 1

Synaxis of the Holy Archangels, November 8

Saint Nektarios of Aegina, November 9

Saint Philip, the Apostle, November 14

Saint Matthew, the Evangelist, November 16

Saint Katherine, the Great Martyr, November 25

Saint Stylios, the Monk of Paphlagonia, November 26

Saint Andrew the Apostle, November 30

You may wish to consider sponsoring a coffee hour on the Sunday closest to your nameday, as a way of celebrating with our parish family. For more information, please contact Mike Canellos at (415) 864-8814.

*\*\* The information above was taken from the data submitted on our 2013 stewardship pledge cards. If your name does not appear on this list, please feel free to give your information to our stewardship data table in the gallery, or by filling out a 2013 stewardship pledge card. \*\**

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## Community Link Continues Ministering to Those in Need

Community Link, now in its ninth year of existence, is a group of Annunciation parishioners who meet once a month on a drop-in basis to visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. We travel to hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. Many of those we visit no longer have family or friends to support them and just need to know there is someone who cares. A short visit or phone call can lift one's spirits a great deal. If anyone in the community knows of any other home bound parishioners to add to our list or would like to join us for a visit, please contact, please contact Pauline Oetzel at poetzel@hotmail.com. Upcoming Community Link dates for 2013 are November 16 and December 21.

## WEEKLY CRETAN MUSIC & DANCE WORKSHOP, RIZITES

Mission Statement: A Cretan dance, instrumental, & song hobby group/ para, where those who want to learn more in general and for the popular Cretan Glendia they participate in regularly during the year throughout California and the U.S. and Crete, can meet to apply and develop their skills confidently and in an authentic way that maintains strong roots.

Content: The study and style execution of Cretan dances and music from the original provinces in Crete they came from.

Moderator/Teacher/Director: **Petros Papageorge**  
petrosp@athertonappliance.com

## YOUTH NEWS

### Sunday School Korner

The Fall has started off with a bang. Our classrooms are bustling with the sounds of many children and the teachers are excited to pass on their love of their religion. October was busy with lessons in creation to iconography. We held our first family liturgy of the year and held our first teacher's meeting for planning. We finished the month with a fun luncheon and costume party for Halloween, proving our parents are very creative with costumes. Boxes were passed out to all children to Trick or treat for UNICEF. Please return boxes to Sunday School by November 10th. Donations accepted from everyone.

The calendar gets real busy now as we gear up for the holidays. We kick off our annual Food Drive Nov. 17th, special services on Thanksgiving Day, and we begin the Christmas pageant practices. This year we have already begun to organize the Christmas event. Your children will be bringing home parts and songs to practice before Thanksgiving on November 17th. For those children missing Sunday school practices, they will have an opportunity to participate in the pageant on Dec. 15th in our youth choir. Mark your calendars now for Sunday, Dec. 15 10am practice/Dress Rehearsal. We are looking for volunteers to help with art and crafts, decorating the set, decorating the tables for lunch and costumes for the event. It takes a village so please help with this wonderful event! Please

contact Denise Yeilding if you can help at dyeilding@yahoo.com.

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.

Have suggestions, like to help with a program?  
Contact Denise Yeilding.

REMEMBER to LIKE US on Facebook...  
Annunciation Sunday School



## Greek School Continues 2013-2014 School Year

If you have any questions, or would like to sign up your child up for the 2013-2014 school year, please contact Anthi Janssens (anthij@comcast.net) or Philip Athanasiades (philippos1cy@yahoo.com).

Some noteworthy dates are as follows:

- November 9: Veteran's Day, no class
- November 30: Thanksgiving, no class
- December 21: Christmas, no class
- December 28: Christmas, no class
- February 15: President's Day, no class
- April 19: Greek Easter, no class
- May 24: Memorial Day, no class
- June 7: Last day of Greek school!

## Dance Groups Resume Practicing

Anyone interested in joining any of the groups, please contact **Irene Kyriacou** at (650) 591-0690 or email sassygrk@aol.com .

**The dance groups are as follows:**

To Mellon (4-5 year olds)

Thisavri (6-8 year olds) - directed by **Shareen Fousekis, Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos** and **Lea Papavasiliou**

Spithes (9-13 year olds) - directed by **Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos & Lea Papavasiliou**

Ekrixi (14 & up) - directed by **Michael & Nicole Garibaldi**

They will resume practice on August 18.

*Continued on page 7*





Also, the dance groups were selling t-shirts the week before and at the festival and we sold out! I had quite a few people ask us to order more and I am going to place another order with Ari after the week-end. I was wondering if you can send out an email to your young adults asking if any of them want a tshirt before I put my order in? There are 2 different shirts - *Molon Lave* and the *Keep Calm* shirt (see proofs above). All shirts are in adult sizes (S, M, L, XL, and XXL). If anyone wants one, please ask them to email me at [sassygrk@aol.com](mailto:sassygrk@aol.com) with which shirt, and size they would like. I need to know by the end of the weekend. I may order a few more as extras but it depends. The price of each shirt is \$20 and proceeds go to dance group.

Thanks,  
Irene K.



**JOY Resumes and Meets at Kontonis Home October 8**

Our Cathedral JOY group kicked off the 2013-2014 school year by meeting at the Kontonis home! We played games, had dinner and dessert, and learned about what it means to build a church using clips from the movie *Evan Almighty*. Many thanks to Nick and Tina for opening their home and their hospitality.

Next month, we look forward to meeting at the Pezo home!

*\*\*JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) is open to all young people between grades 3-6\*\**



**Young Adults Send Two Teams to San Jose Volleyball Tournament, Hold Discussion on October 24**

The month of October was a busy month for our Cathedral young adult group! In addition to attending the annual young adult volleyball tournament in San Jose (October 18-20) (this time with two teams!), our young adults held a discussion night on October 24. The featured guest speaker this month was Steven Lim, a graphic designer at Productive Printing, who shared how he felt God has guided his professional and personal life! Dinner was provided, and it was a great time.

We thank Steven for donating his time and talents to be with us, and look forward to our community service project next month!

*\*\*The Cathedral Young Adult group is open to all young adults 22-35(ish)\*\**

For more information on any of our youth groups, feel free to contact Father Niko at [fatherniko@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherniko@annunciation.org), or visit the "Youth of Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco" Facebook group page.



# Camp for a Cause

Just wanted to share a heartwarming story about what young people in our community are doing right now!

Last August, Eleni Rally and her friend Gracie launched their very own camp called Camp for a Cause. The camp is designed for girls around ages 10-13 to get involved and work over the course of a week for a cause. The campers volunteer time, make gifts, learn and perform dances in order to connect with and raise money for a cause. For their first week, they chose to work in support of Alzheimer's Research and Alzheimer's Care, as it is a cause very near and dear to both the girls' families' hearts.

Check out their website:

[www.campsforacause.org](http://www.campsforacause.org) <<http://www.campsforacause.org>>

The San Jose Mercury News also sent a photographer to cover the story and was kind enough to create a slideshow and a little write-up about their work:

<http://photos.mercurynews.com/2013/08/09/photos-camp-for-a-cause-dances-to-raise-money-for-alzheimers-research/>

The girls also received recognition in the Mills-Peninsula Hospital Newsletter as well as an interview for the Burlingame High School Newspaper.

Camp for a Cause has raised over \$2,200 (and climbing!) in just a few days, exceeding all expectations!

Camp for a Cause will be taking place next summer, as well, and



already the campers from 2013 have expressed a strong interest in coming back! The girls are in the process of planning a Thanksgiving session, a spring break 2014 session and 2-4 2014 summer sessions! And all those that Camp for a Cause was able to touch - Mills-Peninsula Hospital, Ark Street Manor and the Alzheimer's Association - were so appreciative of the camp's work.

We commend Eleni and her family and friends who have put their love and hard work into this beautiful program, truly fulfilling the call of all Christians to contribute their time, talents, and treasure, in the Lord's name, and for the good of all. God bless you!



*“God requires from us only our consummate determination; it is He Who gives us strength and grants us victory.”*

*- St. Ephraim the Syrian*



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DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES PRESENTS NEW WEEKLY YOUTUBE SERIES, "BE THE BEE"

The Department of Youth and Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM) recently began a weekly series of short, informative, entertaining, and spiritually beneficial videos. The series, "Be the Bee," is named after a metaphor associated with Elder Paisios of Mount Athos (+1994), and explores ways that we can all focus on what is good and beautiful in our everyday lives.

"Our Department has been very successful at connecting with people and sharing the Faith through a variety of social media, and we realized that there wasn't much of an Orthodox presence on YouTube," said Father Jason Roll, Director. "Our youth are already on YouTube, so why aren't we? It's a natural way to preach the Gospel and spread Christ's unconditional love."

Viewers can access the channel by searching "Y2AM" on YouTube,



Clips from *We #StandAgainstBullying 2*

or going to [www.youtube.com/user/y2am](http://www.youtube.com/user/y2am).

"Thank God, the response has been very positive so far," said "Be the Bee" host and Youth Protection / Parish Ministries Coordinator, Steven Christoforou. "Our first episode already has over 600 views, and we hope that this series will be helpful to an ever wider audience."

New episodes are released every Thursday afternoon. Check it out!

## Altar Group Schedule for November

The schedule for the month will be as follows:

November 3- Group 1

November 10- Group 2

November 17- Group 3

November 24- Group 4

The altar group rosters are as follow:

Group 1- Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Stelio Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis

Group 2- Anthony Obester, Demetri Kontonis, Bobby Kontonis, Niko Manetas, Hari Manetas, Matthew Nuris

Group 3- Steven Flynn, Clint Flynn, Tony Selianitis, Taumaoe Selianitis, Dimitri Selianitis

Group 4- Jonas Tesfai, Nathan Tesfai, Steven Monolakis, Panagioti Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group, who are above the age of 10, feel free to contact Father Niko Bekris at [fatherniko@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherniko@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!

## SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES

### At the The Cathedral

#### BAPTISMS

Amoniel Peoples, son of Lent Peoples and Merhawit Keleta, was baptized on October 12. His sponsors are Fikremariam Mehai and Rahel Tekeste.

Leander Thornton Darby, son of Peter Thornton Darby and Flora-Fawn Pappas, was baptized on October 13. His sponsor is Sophia Pappas.

Na mas Zisoun! (Long Life)

#### WEDDINGS

Anthoula Harrison and Nicolas William Wojczak were married at the Cathedral on October 5. Their sponsor is Deno Konstantinidis.

Martin Quinn and Georgianna Golematis were married on October 19. Their sponsor is Demetrios Golematis.

Na mas zisoun! (Long life!)

#### FUNERALS

Helen Marks, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 4, was buried October 10. She is survived by her children, John, Art and Vickie.

Gregory John Pangtages, Sr., who fell asleep in the Lord on October 10, was buried October 18. He is survived by his wife, Mary, and their children, Gregory Jr., Stephanie, and Cynthia.

Mary (Bagatelos) Myrtakis, who fell asleep in the Lord on October 15, was buried at the Cathedral on October 22. She is survived by her children Elaine Purcell, Anthony James Myrtakis, Constantine "Connie" Guentensperger, and Christine Myrtakis.

Aionia i Mnimi! (Eternal Memory)

Na mas zisoun! (Long life!)

*"It is sufficient for us to know that in the Mystery of Communion we are granted the greatest of God's gifts, and therefore we must by all means try to live in such a way that we may more often approach this most Holy Mystery, which the ancient Christians were granted daily."*

- Elder Arsenios

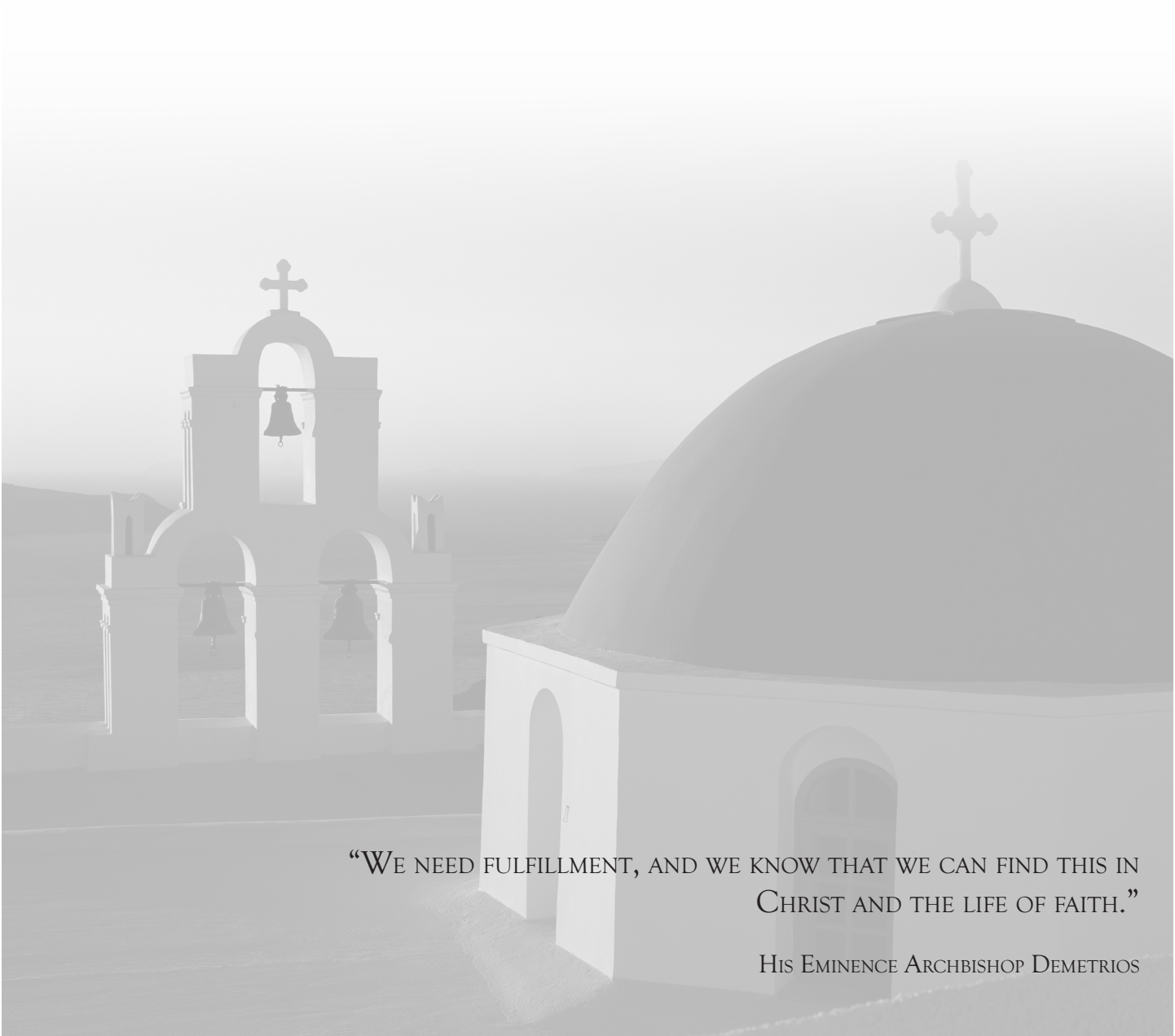


The signing of the contract with McNely Construction on October 16



# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MON.	TUESDAY	WED.	THURS.	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
						Greek School, 10 am
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros, 9 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am, Reception for Mr. Ioannis Andreades; Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice		JOY, 6:30	Construction Meeting, 10 am  Basketball practice, 7 pm	Dance Practice, 6:30 pm  Basketball practice, 7 pm	Synaxis of the Archangels, Liturgy, 10 am	Saint Nektarios, Liturgy, 10 am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Orthros, 9 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am, Sunday School, 10:30 Dance Practice Parish Assembly; Stewardship Month Begins; IOCC Dinner, Novato, 6 pm		JOY, 6:30 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am  Basketball practice, 7 pm	Dance Practice, 6:30 pm  Basketball practice, 7 pm		Community Link, 9 am  Greek School, 10 am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Orthros, 9 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am, Altar Boy Training (after liturgy) Sunday School, 10:30 Dance Practice Sunday School Food Drive Begins			Construction Meeting, 10 am  Parish Council, 7:30 pm  Basketball practice, 7 pm	Entrance of the Theotokos, Orthros, 9 am, Liturgy, 10 am  Dance Practice, 6:30 pm  Basketball practice, 7 pm		Greek School, 10 am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Orthros, 9 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice Stewardship Sunday and Philoptochos Thanksgiving Luncheon			Construction Meeting, 10 am  Basketball practice, 7 pm	Thanksgiving Day, Liturgy 10 am		Greek School, 10 am



“WE NEED FULFILLMENT, AND WE KNOW THAT WE CAN FIND THIS IN  
CHRIST AND THE LIFE OF FAITH.”

HIS EMINENCE ARCHBISHOP DEMETRIOS