



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



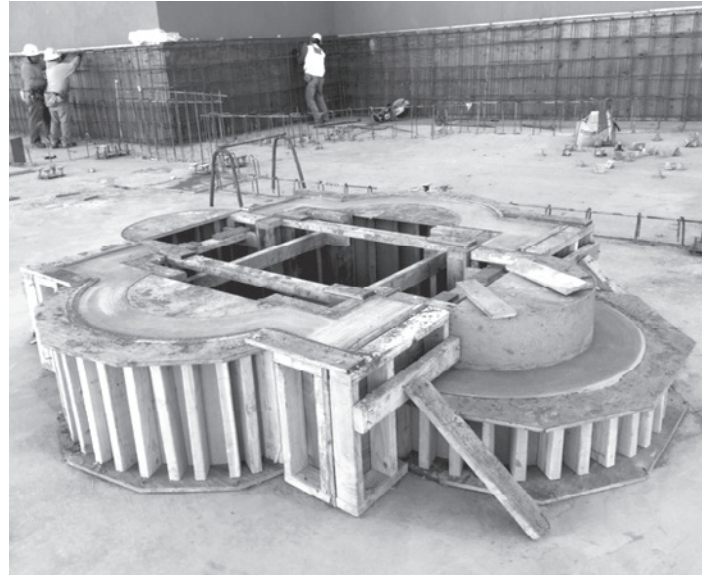
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FEBRUARY 2015

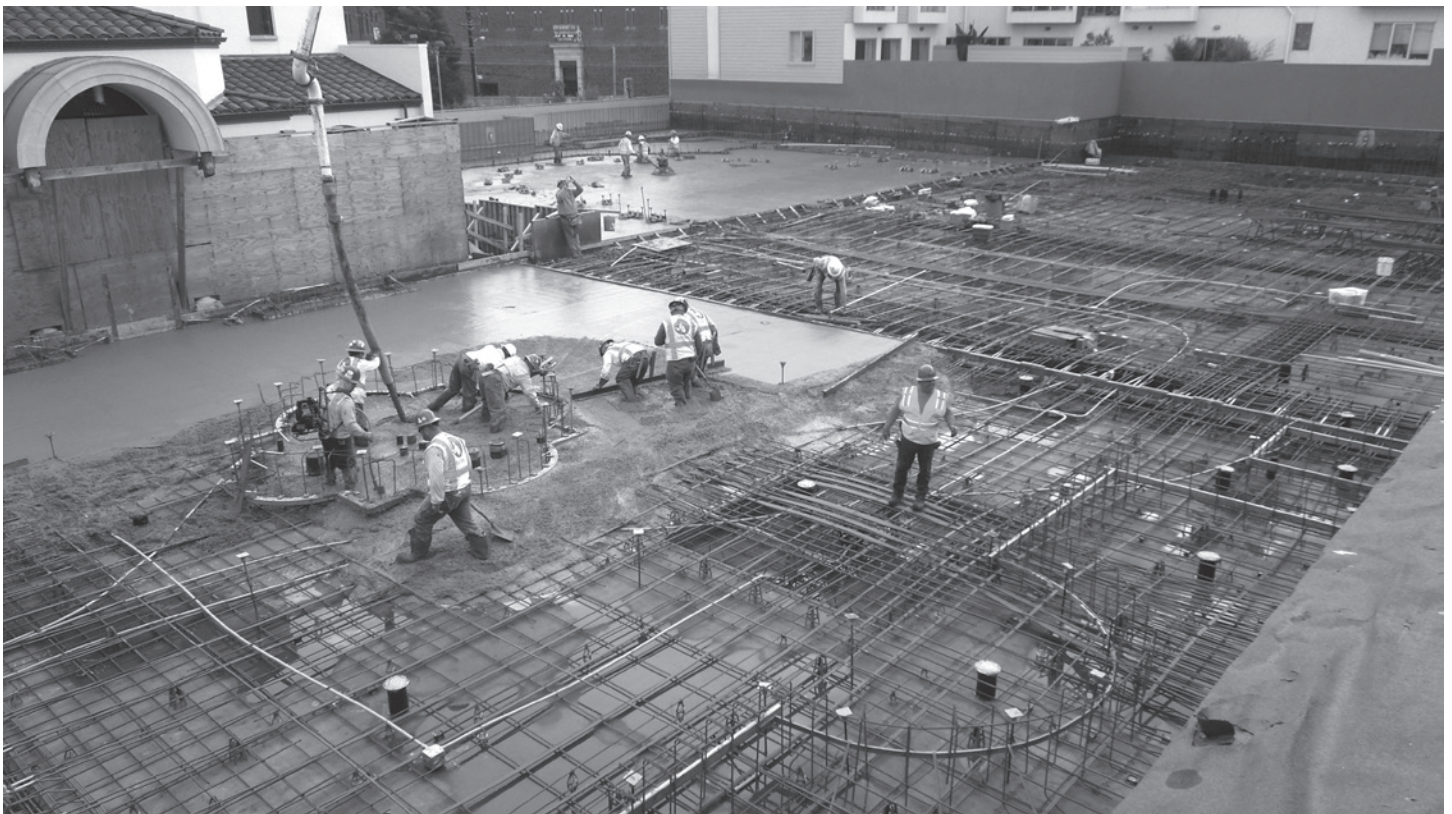
BUILDING UPDATE: REBUILDING THE CATHEDRAL TO THE GLORY OF GOD

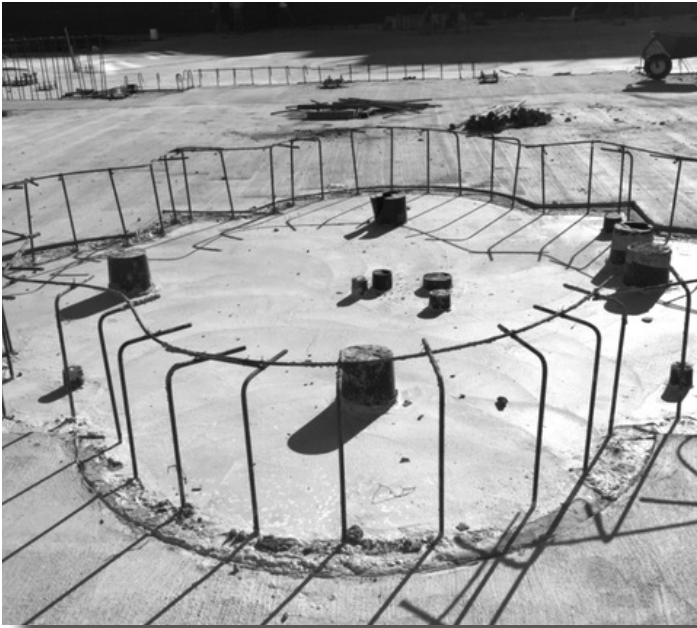
In spite of the December rains, McNely construction was able to complete the current phase of our building project. This phase consists of concrete pours of the decks and all that this entails, including inspection, stress tests, etc. The deck (that is, the top of the garage and the floor of the Cathedral) is now virtually complete. The construction crew has also completed the side walls around the perimeter (the parapet walls), removed the wood deck formation, and finished the ramp going down to the garage. As this issue of the Herald goes to press, the stairways to and from the garage are being formed, as are the planter walls and the adult baptistry. Over the next few weeks, the vertical steel will begin to rise, being affixed to the base plates, which are already in place. We hope to complete the exterior of the building during 2015, so that we can

see next page



The baptismal font, for adults as well as for infants, taking shape. The baptistry follows the design of the one in Hagia Sophia, Constantinople.





Outline of the future courtyard fountain.

from previous page

begin work on the interior. Meanwhile, our priority is to get the garage finished so that we can begin using it and so that it can begin to generate the money needed to pay off our loan.

As for fund raising, we are pleased to announce that \$5.75 million has been raised so far. Of this amount, \$1.16 million was raised in a year's time, that is, since the signing of the contract and the issuance of our permit on October 17, 2013. Once again, the Cathedral Philoptochos helped us reach this goal, as they pledged an additional \$50,000, bringing their total giving to date to \$114,000. Meanwhile, donations continue to come in. Certainly, we have a ways to go to raise all the money still needed to complete the building (about \$6 million). Of this amount, \$1.2 has been pledged and is being paid in installments. We are grateful to the community for its monetary and prayer support to date, as we continue to work to engage the support of others in this historic undertaking. All the donors' names (\$1,000.00 gift minimum) will eventually be inscribed on the dedication wall in the new Cathedral, where prayers will be constantly offered "for the blessed and ever-memorable founders and benefactors of this Holy Church." May your children and their children see your names up on the dedication wall and bless God for your expression of faith.



A view of the parking deck, upon which the vertical steel for the new Cathedral will be erected. (The parking component has already been completed, and lies below the deck.)



Second of two concrete pours





**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

The building of the new Cathedral is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity which has presented itself to us as a Community and can be accomplished very easily if we all are willing to do our part to give as much as we can for this short period of time.

We must ask ourselves the question – How much do we spend on other things each month that are important to us? Can we add a donation

to the Cathedral Building Fund as well? Many people have set up a monthly auto debit plan on their credit cards so that gift can be made automatically and spread out over time in order to fit into their budgets.

Your thoughtful consideration is appreciated by us today and your children and grandchildren tomorrow!!

Gift Giving to the Capital Campaign

For those parishioners or friends of the Cathedral who wish to make a donation, you may consider donating funds from your stock portfolio. If you were to sell this stock on the open market most likely you will pay capital gain taxes. To avoid paying capital gain taxes, you simply donate the stock to the Annunciation Cathedral, a non-profit 501(c)3 religious corporation.

The stock needs to be publicly traded on one of the exchanges (NY, NASDAQ, etc) then you simply report it on your tax return as a noncash charitable contribution. You get the appreciated value for the donation and do not pay tax on the capital gain. Then all you will need for taxes is a letter of acknowledgment from the Cathedral, with the name of the stock, date of donation and number of shares received. For additional information regarding the transfer of stock to the Cathedral, please contact Father Stephen at fatherstephen@annunciation.org or Angie Leventis at aleventis3@comcast.net.

Parking During Construction

Parking for up to 70 cars is available in the lot behind the Cathedral, at 334 14th Street and on the street. Stewards of the Cathedral are charged only \$5 to park, by showing their card; the Cathedral will pay \$7 of the parking cost for Stewards. To pick up a parking pass or to discuss your stewardship, please call Marcelo Souza in the church office. Street parking is also available on Sundays, especially along the 217' construction zone in front of the Cathedral. For your convenience, an attendant will be on hand each Sunday to monitor the drop off zone and direct parking to the Zenanli lot behind the Cathedral. We kindly ask our parishioners to be considerate of those with disabilities, giving them parking preference in the spaces on Valencia Street.

*“Whoever desires to do good,
can do it from the place where
he is.” – St. Efthimios*

Parish Council Elects Officers and Begins Mentoring Program

The 2015 Parish Council met on January 4 to elect officers for the coming year, and the following were the results:

President: Christopher Kyriacou

Vice-President: Tom Nuris

Secretary: Gus Vouchilas

Treasurer: Philip Athanasiades

Assistant Treasurer: Nick Rally

Inasmuch as this was not the first time the Parish Council had fewer candidates than the number required to fill the necessary vacancies, and, more importantly, in order to further the work of the Parish Council, particularly among the youth, the Parish Council approved the creation of a mentoring program. According to the program, parishioners in good standing who are deemed to possess leadership abilities and who wish to serve the community in this way will be invited by the Parish Council to join the mentoring program as “unofficial” Parish Council members. That is, they will be invited to attend and audit meetings of the Parish Council, with a view to their becoming future candidates for Parish Council. They may participate in discussions, without, however, the right to vote, and they should also be willing to accept assignments, as the tending of the *pangari*, festival chairmanship, etc. The number of such individuals should not exceed the number of vacancies in the ensuing year. For example, for 2015, the number of individuals invited to participate in the mentoring program should not exceed eight (8).

Dustin Novo, Kosta Koutoulas, and Dr. Katina Kostoulas are hereby being enrolled in this mentoring program, and will be invited to attend Parish Council meetings, beginning with the January 27th meeting. **Chris Manitsoudis** has also been recommended for this program by the Parish Council and will be invited to join upon becoming a steward of the parish.

2015 STEWARDSHIP

The turn of the New Year traditionally brings with it the hope for a healthy, happy, and prosperous year. While we naturally hope for these things for ourselves, our families and our friends, as Christians, we are also called upon to impart these things into our Orthodox Church, programs, outreach, communities, and ministries. The strength of each of things comes from caring hearts and individuals who are committed to bringing the Word of Christ to our daily lives through financial Stewardship. It is only through the strength and love of each and every one of us that the Annunciation Cathedral – the church we consider our own – can continue to provide for all of our spiritual and community needs.

As we embark on our Stewardship Campaign for 2015 and beyond, your Stewardship Leadership Committee would like to extend to the following parishioners, listed below, our heartfelt thanks for your financial support.

The committee also extends an invitation to each of us who calls the Annunciation Cathedral “home,” to offer your financial commitment so that your Cathedral can continue to provide you and the entire community with a foundation through which to bring the Word of Christ to the lives of each and every one of us.

Honor Roll of 2015 Stewards

Tsigeweine Abay
Demetria Aleck
Patricia Aleck
Anthony & Zetta Ambus
Lambrini Arestis
Philip & Diala Athanasiades
Mr. & Mrs. Peter A. Bagatelos
Constantine Barlas
Rev. Niko & Stella Bekris
Maria Bissas
Harriet Boone
Marie Cardellini
Eleni Larissopoulos Carter
Yvonne & Anthony Chiappari
James Chiappari
Philip & Annette Chiappari
Stanley Cocoles
Vivian & John Curd
Elli & James Dakis
Athan & Marguerite Dalianes
Ethel Davies
Christina Decker
Nicholas & Stephanie Delis
Katina Kostoulas
Nicholas & Janine Economides
Greg & Jenny Efstratis
Dr. Anthony Elite
Dimitri & Mary Fanourgiakis
Evgenia N. Fkias
Spiros and Shareen Fousekis
Charalambos & Marianthe Fragakis
Gus & Helen Franco
Michael & Nicole Garibaldi
Stanley Glaros
Mr. & Mrs. Nicko M. Georgatos
Bonnie Grampsas
Paul Hamberis
Joanna Karas
Angelus Karas
Bill Karas
Kathy Karas
Athanasios & Niki Kastoras
Gari Katsanis
James & Joanne Kavalaris
Mary Mavrakakis
Despina Nick Kokalis
Athanasios Kontrafouris
Paul & Irene Kosaris
Mr. & Mrs. Angelo Kottas
Pete & Voula Koutoulas
Dina Koutoulas
Faye Mellos
James & Diane Thomas
Basil & Mary Tonas
Sophia Tsatsaronis
Athanasios & Christina Tsiatis
Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios Tsokas
Rev. Stephen & Aliko Kyriacou
Patricia Lazarakis
Angie & Theodore Leventis
Ryan & Marie Lukehart
Sophie Makras
Elaine Makras
Thalia Makras
Christina & Gregory Mandanis
Cynthia Marcopulos
Helen Markanton
Mr. & Mrs. George Mattis
Aglaia Mavroudis
Nektarios L. McKnight
Beverly A. & Jerry Meyer
Mary Mires
Michael & Christina Misthos
Mary Mitchel
John & Demetra Monolakis
George & Anna Diamantopoulos
Vicky A. Moulas
Michael S. & Erika Mountanos
Melanie & Steve Pardini Mountanos
George & Dena Mourgos
Tula Mouroufas
Maria & Dean Nicolacakis
Rita Nicolas
Michael & Helen Nicolas
Dustin & Chrisula Bissas Novo
Robert & Pauline Oetzel
Connie Panagotacos
Mr. & Mrs. Peter Pantages
Emanuel & Olga Papadakis
Dr. Sophia Papageorgiou
George & Lea Papavasiliou
Lester & Chrisoula Pezo
Pamela Piccinini
Maria & Jason Polyzos
Louis N. Ponticas
Dean Poulakidas
Sakee & Irene Poulakidas
Mr. & Mrs. James Poulos
Mr. & Mrs. Demetrius Rally
Demetrios W. Rizos
J. Ward & Barbara Rotter
John & Irinie Sahpazis
Jerry Simotas
Georgia Spanos
Michael Stamatopoulos
Christina Armatas
C. Loukas Stephens
Nicholas Svetcoff
George Tacticos
Joy Tamaras
Mr. & Mrs. Nick G. Tarlson
Mary C. Tsougarakis
Nicholas & Vasiliki Tzafopoulos
Elena & Zac Weiner Lingas
Costas & Meena Vellis
Aris Vellis
Denis J. & Renee Vorrises
Mr. & Mrs. George Vorrises
Stephanie Louise Vorrises
Louise & James Vorrises
Angelo J. Vorrises
Georgia Vouchilas
Gus Vouchilas
Michael & Loula Vriheas
Mary Yannaghas
Bessie York
Bret and Denise Yeilding
William & Kathryn Mares
Jeff & Sylvia Keller
Effie Pappas Lawrence
Alex Zaphiris & Gary Fisher
Georgia Kouropoulos
Marianne Velonis
Michele Siouris
Athena Sheldon
Costas & Ria Haralambopoulos
Lee & Emily Violet
William Chapralis
Constantina Dedes
Jim Philliou
Kevin Yeilding
Marilena Stavrides
John & Sayuri Nagase Panagulias
Panos John Gogonas
Maria Mastrokyriakos
Alexander Kasolas
Kosta & Grace Koutoulas

Purchase on Amazon.com and Support the Cathedral!

The Cathedral is now enrolled in the AmazonSmile program, whereby Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of eligible Amazon Smile purchases to charitable organizations selected by Amazon.com customers. This would be a tremendous help to the Cathedral as we shop on one of the biggest online businesses in the world!!

When making online purchases from Amazon, just select “Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral” as your charity of choice. Here’s how to enroll in this program:

- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and log in with your Amazon account (if you don’t have an Amazon account, you can create one from that web page by clicking on the ‘Create an account’ link)
- Enter ‘Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral San Francisco’ in the search field and hit ‘Search’
- You should see a single result of ‘Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral’. If you see more results, locate the one with ‘San Francisco, CA’ next to it.
- Hit ‘Select’ to make the Annunciation your charitable organization choice for your Amazon account.

That’s it! When shopping on Amazon this Christmas season, simply sign into <https://smile.amazon.com> for the Annunciation to receive 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases. You’ll know you’re in the AmazonSmile program because the top left corner of the web page will show ‘amazonsmile’ instead of ‘amazon’.



New Catechism Class Begins at the Cathedral in 2015

Last month we began a new catechism (religious education) class at the Annunciation Cathedral, taught by Marcelo Souza. The Cathedral has had a pre-marriage program for the last five years, which often includes many individuals who have not been baptized in any Christian faith but would like to learn more. This class serves as preparation for those seeking baptism - not only those entering the Church through marriage, but any other inquirers, as well as Orthodox people desiring to learn more about our Faith, or a refresher course.

The class is meeting every other Tuesday. We are now using two introductory books - *Introducing Eastern Orthodox Theology* by Fr. Andrew Louth, and *The Reason for God: Belief in an Age of Skepticism* by Timothy Keller - in addition to investigating our Creed as the summary of the Faith.

Please keep our catechumens - a key part of the future of our church! - in your prayers.

Pictures of the Ordination of Bishop Apostolos of Midia

A link to pictures of the ordination service from December 21 can be found here:

<https://www.facebook.com/dpanagos/posts/10205596248294754>



Is the Theotokos “More Honorable Than the Cherubim, More Glorious Beyond Compare Than the Seraphim”? – Part 1

by Marcelo P. Souza

A friend, exploring the Faith, particularly in relation to the Theotokos, presented some concerns about her role and work as viewed, expressed, and experienced by the Church. Here is a summary of his concerns:

There is one Mary in Scripture who was a humble woman that was chosen by God to bear Jesus and she accepted God’s will to be the mother of His Son. Then I see a second Mary in the modern church, and there are Bible verses that I see as contradictory to the statement that Mary is more glorious than the Seraphim and more honorable than the Cherubim (e.g. Ps. 8). Humans are “lower than the angels.”

Prophets and Church councils say things, and those are valid if they can agree with the data of Scripture.

There are also practical questions like, how can Mary (or the Saints) hear two people during Paraklesis that are simultaneously praying to her if the two persons are on two opposite sides of the Earth? How can they hear millions of people all over the world at once? God is omniscient

see next page



from previous page

and omnipresent, but are Mary and the Saints also omniscient and omnipresent? Maybe there is a way they can hear, but I am not aware of that “valid data”.

Here’s some preliminary responses:

Joy of All Who Sorrow: First, I think some good reading in Church history would be helpful. So I will give you a list at the end towards that purpose. The reason is that, in this particular topic, you say that there is a disconnect between the Theotokos in Scripture (and presumably the first few centuries) and the Theotokos of the “modern” church. Nothing can be further from the truth.

The earliest Church Fathers – beginning most clearly with Irenaeus – had a very rich theology of Mary as the Second Eve. In redemption, the Father sends the second Adam in the power of the Holy Spirit to bring about union again. The divine Logos comes and takes residence in a womb that becomes “more spacious than the heavens.” The Father sends the Son in the Holy Spirit, who sanctifies the new Temple and the new Ark of the covenant in the Theotokos. The Ark now contains the true Manna – the very Flesh and Blood of God, the Bread from Heaven – the true eternal Word, and the true Aaron’s staff that budded.

As the first Eve had received the words of death from the angel of death, turning from the Spirit in disobedience, so now the second Eve receives the words of life from the angel of life (Gabriel) and becomes the dwelling place of the very Word of God, as she submits herself in love and wonder by her fiat to the Holy Spirit who comes upon her.

The tree of the knowledge of good and evil, in the center of the garden (paradiso) became the tree of death, its fruit the fruit of disobedience, disunion and death; and in redemption, the cross, the tree of death in the garden of death (Golgotha) becomes the tree of life, as death is trampled upon it and destroyed, because the Fruit of the tree is the Son who offers himself to the Father and to creatures. Paradise is regained. The Resurrection consummates the deification, the Ascension consummates the objective union in heaven, and at the same time starts the impartation of this work, in the Holy Spirit, at Pentecost.

As the *Platytera* of Orthodox temples depict, usually behind the altar, Christ is born in the center of the Theotokos, the God Bearer - which then becomes true for all who are united to him in faith; Christ is “formed in us” objectively through baptism, subjectively through faith, and this is rooted in his objective birth in creation and restoration of union effected in the Holy Spirit. We become God bearers in the Holy Spirit, icons being restored to the image of the Son. As the first Eve had received the words of death from the angel of death, turning from the Spirit in disobedience, so now the second Eve receives the words of life from the angel of life (Gabriel) and becomes the dwelling place of the very Word of God, as she submits herself in love and wonder by her fiat to the Holy Spirit who comes upon her.

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The Theotokos is not the main subject of the Gospels. The Incarnation, life, work, death, burial and resurrection of the Son of God is. Therefore, it is expected that one would read of the “maidservant of the Lord” and not about the one who is more glorious than the highest order of angels. Just like it is expected that we don’t read fundamental Christian belief such as the Trinity properly defined, or they hypostatic union in the Gospels or the epistles.

(Part 2 next month!)

***Xronia Polla* for Namedays in February!**

Best wishes to the following individuals who celebrate their namedays this month:

Harriet Boone
Charalambos Fragakis
Harry Misthos
Lea Papavasiliou
Hari Manetas
Bobby Kontonis

Saint Haralambos, February 10
The Miracle of the *Kollyva* Wrought by Saint Theodore the Tyro, February 28

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 2014 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 2014 stewardship pledge card. ***

“Whenever men exert great effort in seeking truth, and prefer nothing else to the truth, God comes to meet them in His gentle way.” – St. Nicholas the Serb

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Annunciation Philoptochos begins Membership Drive January through March

The strength of any organization is the size and commitment of its membership. Our Philoptochos is a most worthy ministry which meets the needs of those in need and when we grow we make a bigger difference to those who need us. We are part of a national organization that reaches across each area of the country and in the world. We are 27,000 strong and part of the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. Through our stewardship and hands on work we are part of an organization that responds immediately to needs and crisis throughout the world. For the two year period of January 2012 to December 2012 National Philoptochos has distributed an unprecedented \$3,102 million in philanthropic aid. Your membership to this illustrious ministry is essential to helping in all areas of need.

A few of the many ministries that we support through our commitments and fund raising activities include:

- *Social Services to the Greek Orthodox community
- *Hurricane Relief through an Emergency Fund
- *Aid to Greece and Cyprus
- *Human Trafficking
- *Autism Assistance
- *Children's Medical Fund to Fund Hospitals
- *Work with Children afflicted with Cancer

And many, many more!

Remember the faces of those in need are many and we need many and much support to reach them. Join today and help our chapter make a difference!!

A big thank you to the ladies of Philoptochos, led by chairs **Vicky Moulas** and **Soso Dekaristos**, for making the delicious breads for our Vasilopita Brunch. The breads were made and wrapped with loving hands and looked very festive on each table. We sold all the extra breads and the funds will go to one of our charities. Also, thanks to **Mike Canellos** and **Antonio Perez** for preparing our champagne brunch. It is always a joy to watch all working together in laughter and harmony for the good of philanthropy.

Look for our Philoptochos table in February as we enter the month of hearts and love. The American Heart Association has designated this month to increase awareness to help prevent heart disease. The National Philoptochos designates one Sunday as Go Red Sunday. Look for the date in the weekly church bulletin and wear red as a sign to help stop this disease.

May all our hearts be filled with good health and good will!

Patricia Aleck
Philoptochos President

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 are February 28, March 21, and April 18.

Cathedral Office Team Formed!

Many, many thanks to our new team of office volunteers! Recently, these beloved Cathedral parishioners generously volunteered their time and commitment to several of the bigger mailings in 2014. Our fantastic team of **Al** and **Loula Ossipoff**, **Alexia Kleinekorte**, **Carl Weiner**, and **Paul Hamberis** have been a HUGE help in putting together mailing materials, specifically, the Easter, Stewardship, and Christmas mailings, a massive task which they continue to do capably and with joy. We are grateful for their assistance and look forward to their help in 2015 as well. Thank you!

If you'd like to join the Cathedral's office team, please call (415) 864-8000

*“Life on earth is too brief,
so brief that we cannot even
imagine. But much has
been provided for us in this
brief period of time that we
are in this life. It has been
given to us so that we can
always turn to God from the
depth of our heart. He is
the One Who can transform
and resurrect our souls.”*

– Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

Metropolis Summer Camp 2015 Registration Open!

Online camper registration and staff applications for the 2015 Metropolis Summer Camp are now available at www.gosfyouth.org! The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is proud to announce the 35th year of its Summer Camp ministry at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. Organized by the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, this program has grown to be one of the most successful youth ministries of the Metropolis. All three sessions of Summer Camp are for campers ages 8 – 18.

Summer Camp Dates for 2015:

Staff Orientation Week: June 30 – July 4

Session 1: July 5-11

Session 2: July 12-18

Session 3: July 19-25

Pricing for 2015:

\$475 Early Registration (December 1 – February 28)

\$500 Normal Registration (March 1 – April 30)

\$525 Late Registration (May 1 – June 15)

All siblings receive a \$25.00 discount.

Online Registration:

Camper Registration is NOW available online. You can make a deposit today to lock in the “Early Registration” pricing and make payments until June 15.

Camp Director & Management Team:

The Camp Director will be Johanna Duterte, Director of the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. The Summer Camp Management Team will be comprised of the following individuals: Jacob Saylor, Program Director; Chris Retelas, Boys’ Director; and Kalli Retelas, Girls’ Director.

Camp Theme:

Building on the success of the themes from the last two years, the commandment of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to “Love One Another” and “As I have loved you”, the theme for next summer is “Be Holy” taken from 1 Peter 1:16, “You shall be holy, for I am Holy.”

Staff Applications:

For questions please contact **Johanna Duterte**, Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, (415) 814-1187, jduterte@sanfran.goarch.org.

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Korner

The month of February starts with lessons on the Presentation of the Lord and continues with classic Bible stories and God’s Love for our Lower School students. Our Upper School students continue to discuss the various topics in preparation for the Oratorical Festival with their teachers, Priest and past presenters. Oratorical writing and critical analysis and discussions take place all month. NEW for the second year to the Oratorical Festival is a poetry contest.

***Reminder: We will not hold Sunday School Classes on February 16th, due to the President’s Holiday/FDF weekend. We encourage you to take this opportunity for family worship in the Chapel. ***

We begin our Lenten lessons in March. We encourage parents/grandparents to bring their children to Sunday School at 10:30 am so they can partake in the various projects and lessons we have in preparation of Easter.

The Annunciation Oratorical Festival will be held on March 15, 2015 immediately following the Divine Liturgy in the Chapel. Please encourage your children grades 4 – 12 to participate. The subjects for the 7th grade through 12 grade are on the Archdiocese website. www.goarch.org. The website is a fantastic resource. Please give our youth encouragement to participate. It’s a valuable and fun experience.

Volunteers are needed to help judge our Oratorical Festival in March. Can you help motivate or teach our children how to write a speech? Attorneys, teachers, public speakers, or anyone with a background or experience in public speaking are encouraged to help. Please be a guest in the classroom, judge or be a timekeeper to motivate our young speech writers about the benefits of public speaking. Volunteers, please contact Denise Yeilding at dyeilding@yahoo.com or Father Niko at fatherniko@annunciation.org.

Denise Yeilding
Sunday School Principal

‘Like’
Annunciation
Cathedral Sunday
School!



*“If you will pray for your enemies,
peace will come to you; but when
you can love your enemies - know
that a great measure of the grace
of God dwells in you...”*

- St. Silouan the Athonite

Upcoming Sunday School Dates

February 1	Presentation of the Lord lessons
February 8	Lessons of Love
February 15	No classes held/ President's Holiday FDF Weekend for Greek Dancers Students in town worship with family
February 22	PRIESTS VISIT Classrooms/ Classes begin 10:30 sharp Priests review Oratorical lessons with upper school
March 1	Sunday of Orthodoxy / Icon Procession after Liturgy
March 8	Lenten Lessons for Lower School Oratorical Practice for Upper School
March 15	Procession of the Cross Oratorical Festival immediately following Liturgy
March 22	Annunciation Lessons/ Independence Day Lessons
March 29	Sign ups for Holy Week Angels
April 4	Saturday of Lazarus/ Palm Tying
April 5	Palm Sunday / Class photos taken
April 10	Good Friday classes and Activities
April 12	Holy Pascha / No Sunday School
April 19	Classes resume
April 26	Regular Classes
May 3	Regular classes/ Mother's Day projects begin
May 10	Mother's Day/ class projects
May 17	Regular Classes
May 24	Memorial Holiday/ No classes/ Family worship
May 31	Regular Classes
June 7	Graduation program and Luncheon

JOY Celebrates New Year at Novo Home

Our JOY group had a wonderful time kicking off the new year at the Novo home on January 13! Many, many thanks to **Dustin and Chrisoula**, who hosted JOY for the first time this year, for their warmth and hospitality. In addition to games and dinner, a house blessing for the Epiphany season was also celebrated by Father Niko. It was a wonderful time.

JOY will skip the month of February due to FDF, but will resume in March. Hope to see you there!



Metropolis GOYA Events to Resume in March!!



Young Adults Kick Off New Year at Etcetera Wine Bar

Our Young Adults went to a favorite location in January, Etcetera Wine Bar on Valencia Street! After volunteering at the soup kitchen and other events the previous few months, it was a wonderful opportunity to enjoy fellowship. As always, the turnout was great, and included many new faces.

On February 26, our young adults will meet at the Cathedral for dinner and discussion with Father Niko.

Hope to see you there!

JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) is open to all youth grades 3-6

*** GOYA (Greek Orthodox Youth of America) is open to all youth grades 7-12***

*** Our Young Adult group is open to all youth age 22-35(ish)***

More information for all of our youth group events can be found on our "Youth of Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco" Facebook page.

You can also find more information on the NorCal GOYA events by contacting Johanna Duterte on "Metropolis of San Francisco Youth and Young Adult Ministries."

Greek School Going Strong!

Greek School continues going strong! Should you have any questions about the program or would like to sign your child up for the 2014-2015 year, you may contact Anthi Janssens at anthij@comcast.net.

“The light of the Lord’s countenance is marked upon us, inscribed and etched in our hearts, and in that light we recognize that good which only heaven can give.” – St. Nicholas the Serb

Altar Groups in February

Our altar schedule for this month is as follows:

February 1- Group 1

February 8- Group 2

February 15- Group 3

February 22- Group 4

Our altar groups for the 2014-2015 school year are as follow:

Group 1- Niko Manetas, Stelio Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis

Group 2- Demetri Kontonis, Andrew Vellis, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, Sean Souza

Group 3- Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Steven Chiappari, Gianni Kefalas

Group 4- Jonas Tesfai, Nathan Tesfai, Bobby Kontonis, Hari Manetas, Matthew Nuris

Serving in the altar is a wonderful way for our young people to participate in the worship of our church, and learn more about our faith. 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. 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!



“I consecrated this house built to place My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there all days.” – 3 Kingdoms 9:45

SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES

FUNERALS

Yota Gofas fell asleep in the Lord on January 16. The funeral office was held January 21. Yota is survived by **Aspasia Walti**, Goddaughter, several Godchildren and Nieces and Nephews.

Elaine (Sissy) Kourkoutakis Kuscic fell asleep in the Lord on January 16. The funeral office was held January 22. Elaine is survived by her daughter, **Antonia Kourkoutakis**.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

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

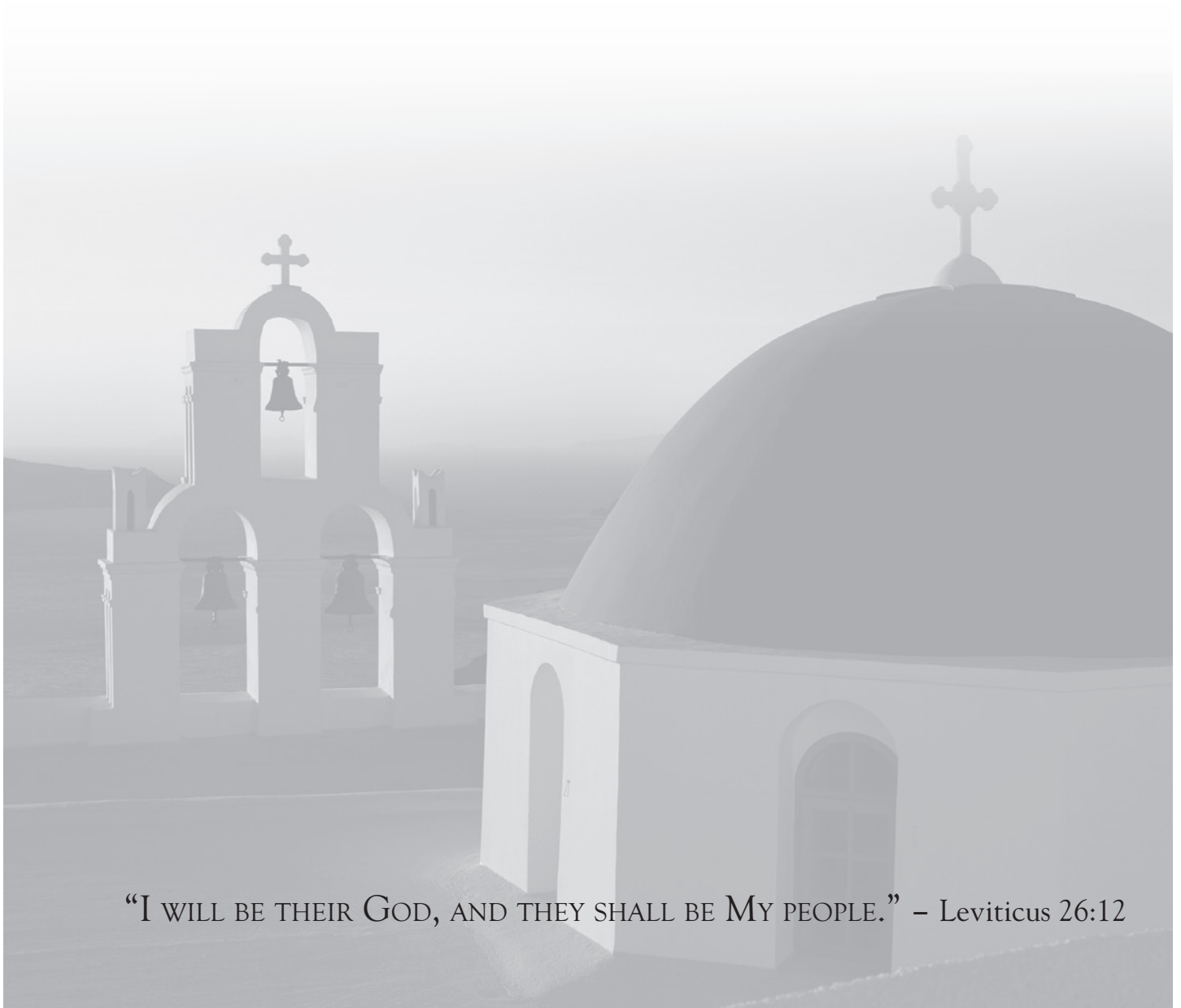
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orthros, 9 am; Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am; Dance Practice, Noon	Presentation of the Lord; Orthros 9 am, Divine Liturgy 10 am;	Basketball Practice, 7 pm Pre-Marital Program, 7 pm; Catechism Class, 8 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am	Basketball Practice, 7 pm		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Orthros, 9 am; Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am; Dance Practice, Noon		Saint Haralambos, 10 am Basketball Practice, 7 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am	Folk Dance Festival (FDF) Basketball Practice, 7 pm	Folk Dance Festival (FDF)	Folk Dance Festival (FDF)
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Folk Dance Festival (FDF) Orthros, 9 am; Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am; Dance Practice, Noon		Soup Kitchen, 6:30 pm Basketball Practice, 7 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am	Basketball Practice, 7 pm		Divine Liturgy, 10 am (cemetery)
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Orthros, 9 am; Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am; Dance Practice, Noon		Basketball Practice, 7 pm Parish Council, 7:30 pm	Pre-Sanctified Liturgy, 10 am Construction Meeting, 10 am	Young Adult Dinner/ Discussion, 6:30 Basketball Practice, 7 pm	First Salutations, 7 pm	Divine Liturgy, 10 am (cemetery); OYAA Playoffs, 2-6:30 pm

“We need to teach our children to live humbly and simply and not continually to seek praise and applause. We need to teach them that there is humility and that this is the healthy state of life.”

- Saint Porphyrios, On the Upbringing of Children

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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“I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE.” – Leviticus 26:12