



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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NOVEMBER 2015



## Father Niko Appointed *Proistamenos* of Church of the Resurrection, Castro Valley

*“Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” – Luke 8:39*

When I first came to the Annunciation Cathedral almost eight years ago, I was a twenty-six year old, wet-behind-the-ears young adult who had every aspiration to change the world. Today, I am a thirty-three year old, a little less wet-behind-the-ears, still learning and (hopefully) still a young adult with every aspiration to change the world. What an incredible journey life is.

A beloved priest once said that a priest’s first parish is like his first love. I have experienced the truth of these words at Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. During these last few years we have laughed together, cried together, danced together, prayed together and have enjoyed life together. Thus, it is with a heavy heart and

yet much joy that I begin serving at the Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley on the fifteenth of this month.

I have said many times that I believe every human being has a calling of some kind, something he or she is called to do in their life for the good of others and their own fulfillment. I have tried, reluctantly and inadequately, to live this in my own life as an ordained clergyman. It is with this same spirit that I believe that when a clergyman is called, he must answer. As ominous and perhaps even restrictive as this may sound, I have found in my life that if we do our best to ask God to place us where He wants us to be, where we end up will be what is best for us and for the world around us.

As we transition to our new home, I know Presbytera Stella and I will miss the entire Cathedral family—its programs, ministries, faces, as well as warmth and kindness. We are thankful to God for the relationships that we have made over the years, and all the moments that have made this community so special for us, including our son’s baptism and my ordination to the priesthood. We humbly ask for your prayers and support that God will strengthen us and bless our efforts in a new parish, that I may be the best priest and pastor I can be, and that everything we do be for the glory of His name and the good of His people.

*To Him be glory forever. Amen.*

## Farewell Luncheon honoring Father Niko, Presbytera Stella

As noted above, His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos has announced that, on November 15, 2015, Father Niko Bekris will take up his new duties as Pastor of the Church of the Resurrection in Castro Valley. This is a bittersweet moment for the Annunciation Cathedral community, where Father Niko and Presbytera Stella have served for the last seven years. In addition to mentoring our youth and, especially, our young adults, Father Niko began the Soup Kitchen and other urban church ministries. He has been a seminal part of our Capital Campaign, and was influential in the rebuilding of the Cathedral on our present site. While we will feel the loss, we nevertheless wish Father Niko Godspeed as he takes up his new pastoral duties. *Axios!* On November 8, when we welcome Father Metropoulos, the new President of Hellenic College/Holy Cross, we will also have the opportunity to congratulate and extend best wishes to Father Niko and Presbytera Stella. A luncheon will be held following the Divine Liturgy, to which all are invited. The donation is \$20 per person, \$10 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will go to the Building Fund, in honor of Father Niko, Presbytera Stella and Baby Christo. To indicate your attendance, please call the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000.





## 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

*“Joy is thankfulness, and when we are joyful, that is the best expression of thanks we can offer the Lord, Who delivers us from sorrow and sin.”*

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica



## PEOPLE ASK: WILL THERE BE ANOTHER STEEL SIGNING?

As you can see, construction of our new cathedral continues beautifully! Parishioners are still asking if we will ever hold another steel signing. Currently, we are thinking of holding another signing event as soon as the exterior is constructed, that is, when our present contract with McNely has been completed, just before we begin to work on the interior. For, we would like as many people as possible to come and see and feel what is to come and to give glory to God, who makes all things new. We expect this will take place by Pentecost, 2016.

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## 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; 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.

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## 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](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org) or Angie Leventis at [aleventis3@comcast.net](mailto:aleventis3@comcast.net).

*“It is of great significance if there is a person who truly prays in a family. Prayer attracts God’s Grace and all the members of the family feel it, even those whose hearts have grown cold. Pray always.”*

- Elder Thaddeus of Vitovnica

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## PARISH ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 22; PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS DECEMBER 13

Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend the second regular Parish Assembly for 2015. This will take place in the Cathedral's Korinthias Hall on Sunday, November 22, following the Divine Liturgy.

The Agenda is as follows:

Opening Prayer

1. Election of Assembly Chair
2. Reading/Approval of the May 17, 2015 Minutes of the Parish Assembly
3. Treasurer's Report
- 4 Reports:
  - a. Stewardship
  - b. 2015 Festival
  - c. Youth
5. Capital Campaign and the Rebuilding of the Cathedral
  - a. Vision plan for the Cathedral Community

6. Election of a 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 13, 2015, following the Divine Liturgy. Those elected will serve a two-year term. The terms of eight (8) Parish Council members expire this year.)

8. Old Business

9. 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.

*“Whoever is patient, suffers afflictions, and says internally ‘God’s will be done,’ the grace of God visits him, and all within him becomes a doxology to God.”*

– Elder Vasilios of Iveron



*The above photo was taken as the present Herald was going to press. It shows the dens glass (exterior inner wall), over which a waterproofing material and, eventually, the stucco will be placed. Completion of the exterior, including the parking garage, should be complete this time next year. Work, then, begins, on the interior.*

## ARTICULATING A VISION FOR THE ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

The Book of Proverbs says, “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” (Proverbs 29:18). At least, this is the translation that has come down to us in the King James version. And this phrase has been used to urge congregations, groups, even corporations, to develop a sense of vision about themselves, in other words, to develop a clear understanding of where they are headed and, then, to develop steps to steer their congregations, groups, or corporations along the path towards that vision.

The Annunciation Cathedral is community is living in very exciting times, more exciting, in some ways, than we could have envisioned ten, fifteen, even twenty and twenty-five years ago when, in the aftermath of Loma Prieta, we pondered about the future of our community and, led by Divine Providence, we decided to build—in the end, to build right here, where the late Ecumenical Patriarch Demetrios told us we would, when he visited the now demolished Cathedral site back in 1990. But, we never stopped to ask ourselves, “What is our vision?” “Where do we see ourselves in ten, or twenty, or thirty years?” “What kind of a community do we want to be or are called by God to be?” This does not mean we did not care about the future or that we have an idea about where we are going. In fact, in 2008, we commissioned a study, through the PAOI (Patriarch Athenagoras Orthodox Institute, at the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley). The study told us many things about ourselves, based on our own awareness of who we are, as a com-

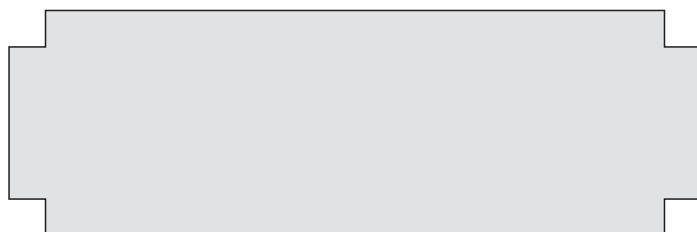
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munity, and how others perceive us. And, many of these things were positive. They described us as a warm, welcoming community, one that has experienced many challenges but one that survived, primarily because of our faith in God, a community that has a rich cultural history and a strong Orthodox Christian foundation. But, it did not articulate a vision for the Annunciation Cathedral, nor a roadmap (or “strategic planning,” if you prefer) for getting there.

Now, as we rebuild the Cathedral church to the glory of God—this magnificent structure that says “we’re a church” on the outside, but, “we raise up our hearts to the Lord,” when one experiences the interior—we need to do just this—articulate a vision for the Cathedral for generations to come. This will help us develop and introduce programs and ministries to meet the demands of an inner city church, in the second decade of the twenty-first century. And, so, we turn to Scripture, where we read, in the Book of Proverbs, “Where there is no vision, the people perish...” This means that the future is connected with the past, not just sequentially, i.e. the future follows the past in a chronological sense, but that the future is molded by the vision people hold in that past.

Vision can mean two things: 1. the faculty or state of being able to see, and 2. an experience of seeing someone or something. In other words, it can mean possessing the ability to observe, to delineate, to grasp and it can also mean the experience itself. We suggest to you that both of these things occur simultaneously. That is, in articulating a vision for the Cathedral, the see and, simultaneously, behold what we see. We think this is the sense in which the Book of Proverbs says, “Where is no vision, the people perish...” Notice, it doesn’t say, the “people don’t achieve as much, in the future [if they don’t have vision], but they cease to exist in the first place. So, the task before us is a daunting task. It’s a challenging task. And, this is why we must begin to articulate a vision for the Cathedral for the duration of the present century and beyond.

Toward this end, the Parish Council will ponder this assignment, beginning with its November meeting, as an agenda item. The topic will also concern those who are running for Parish Council for the next two years. Nor is this undertaking limited to the Parish Council. It will be put before the Parish Assembly on November 22, inviting the entire community to participate in the process. Now, why are we doing this? Because this is, in part, what we are called to do. The second part of the verse cited above, reads, “but he that kept the law, happy is he.” Actually, the first translation of the Bible, the translation into Greek (the Septuagint) says, “ὁ δὲ φυλάσσων τὸν νόμον μακαριστός.” The word makaristos means “blessed.” As Christians, we are invited by God to see ourselves, our lives, and the opportunities God gives daily, as “blessed.” May our undertaking result in many blessings upon those who embark upon it as well as those who will benefit from it, for generations to come.



## Purchase on Amazon.com and Support the Cathedral!

The Cathedral recently received a small donation from Amazon.com’s AmazonSmile program, which the Cathedral has been enrolled for almost a year now. If you sign up for AmazonSmile (free), Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to a non-profit of your choice, in this case Annunciation Cathedral! Growing this program would be a tremendous help to the Cathedral while shopping 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’.

## Luncheon, Book Signing and Sale on November 1

On Sunday, November 1, immediately after the Divine Liturgy, we will have a lunch in our community center, followed by a talk by Her Excellency Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis who served as U.S. Ambassador to Hungary. Following her talk, she will sign her new book, *Madam Ambassador*. Proceeds will go to the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund. Do plan on attending. The presentation should be very informative. The Cathedral is very proud to present Ambassador Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis, the first Greek-American U.S. Ambassador, ever! And one of the very few Americans of Greek descent to have been named U.S. Ambassador. Recall, Her Excellency presided over the Cathedral’s 85th anniversary gala, which was held under the rotunda of San Francisco’s City Hall in 2006. We are very proud of her accomplishments!

## Saturday, November 7: Honoring the ten year Anniversary of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos with a Dinner

A dinner will take place at the Church of the Holy Cross, Belmont. The donation is \$75 per person. Proceeds will benefit the ministries of St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center. Vespers at 5, Reception & Fellowship at 6; Dinner & Presentations at 7. To reserve, please call the Cathedral at 415 864-8000. We note the Cathedral has already fulfilled one table and is in the process of filling a second table.

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## Welcome our New Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology President

On Sunday, November 8, The Very Reverend Christopher T. Metropoulos, D.Min., newly named President of HC/HC, will celebrate the Divine Liturgy with us and offer the homily. The Divine Liturgy that day will be celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. 9:00 a.m. Orthros; 10:30 a.m. Liturgy; Luncheon to follow.

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### 2016 STEWARDSHIP: WHAT'S NEW?

The Cathedral is getting ready to launch its 2016 Stewardship program. Your Stewardship Committee has adopted the theme of the 34th Psalm (33rd LXX), verse 10, which says "...those that seek the Lord shall never be in want of any good thing..." In other words, the Lord makes sure all our needs are met, as we seek the Lord. And God meets our needs, not solely for our own use, but also so that we may share them with others. Parents understand this, as they seek to provide for their families. All of us understand this, as we are called to provide for the Church. The Church, in turn, edifies us and ennobles us, because it is in the Church and through the Church that we meet Christ, especially as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. We can pray by ourselves, for sure. But, we can only receive Holy Communion by praying together, as the Church.

Stewardship, therefore, (the sharing of our time, our talent, and our treasure, i.e. "every good thing"), is a sacred engagement. That's why we make such a big deal about it. That's why we make every effort, year after year, to gather up all our brothers and sisters who are baptized into Christ, to commit to support the work of the Church.

We will be sending out 2016 Stewardship materials to you on November 1. They will include a letter, signed by Father and by Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee chair, a brochure which further explains stewardship, a 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card (actually, a tear off, found at the bottom of the letter, and a return envelope. Here's what we would like you to do. We would like you to read through the material, complete your 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card, put it in the envelope provided, and bring it with you to church on Sunday, December 6. Sunday, December 6 has been designated "Stewardship Sunday." At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will celebrate a special *Artoklasia* (the service of the Five Loaves). Afterwards, Parish Council members will circulate special baskets, into which we are asking you to deposit your 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card. By performing this symbolic act, you are affirming that you are in support of the work of the Church, which includes its ministries and its outreach. Then, we will convene in our Korinthias Hall for lunch, as we celebrate Stewardship Sunday. A special banner has been ordered, to be affixed over the entry door, reminding us of the theme of our 2016 Stewardship work, "...those that seek the Lord shall never be in want of any good thing."

If you have any questions, we invite you to ask Father or Gus, or call the Cathedral office, at 415 864-8000. May God bless you all, and may God bless this sacred community of the Annunciation Cathedral.

## MEET ICONOGRAPHER GEORGE KORDIS

On October 18, Gorge Kordis visited the Cathedral for the first time, along with four members of his team. They were awed by the magnificence of the new Cathedral. Specifically, they were impressed by the space, the volume, the proportions and, of course, the magnificent dome and iron dome. As we have noted in previous issues of the Herald, Professor Kordis (he is professor of iconography at the University of Athens), has forwarded renderings of the proposed iconography for the new Cathedral. Some of the renderings appeared in the Herald, in periodical building updates, and in this year's Festival souvenir book. The actual iconography, however, will take shape once Professor Kordis has an opportunity to view the completed building, study its light and other criteria. We recommend a publication of his, *Icon as Communion*, which can be purchased through such outlets as Amazon.com (remember to purchase it through "Amazon Smile," as the Cathedral receives a percentage of purchases) or the Hellenic College/Holy Cross book store in Brookline, MA. In this book, Professor Kordis explains the various criteria. While he and his team are in San Francisco, they will also engage the church community and the wider community, by offering seminars on iconography at the parish and also at area universities.

*Shown here is Professor Kordis with his team. He is the gentleman second from the left. He and his team were introduced to the parish, following the Divine Liturgy and, afterwards, briefly met with the Parish Council, which was holding its October meeting that day.*



## Catechism Class Continues

Following the several baptisms which took place last summer, our ongoing catechism class restarted in September with three new catechumens: Zac Weiner, Maria Fuentes, and Reid Conklin. We wish them all the best as they begin this journey to the Orthodox faith, and look forward to welcoming them into our community sacramentally.

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.

We are now using two introductory books – *Introducing Eastern Orthodox Theology* by Fr. Andrew Louth, and *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis – in addition to investigating our Creed as the summary of the Faith. We are also reading through the Gospel of Mark.

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



## Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism Launched New Website!

The Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism (COME), a vibrant ministry of the Metropolis of San Francisco, has recently launched their beautiful new website, which can be seen at [www.come-sf.org](http://www.come-sf.org). Through the diligence of Thomaida Hudainish, now employed by the Metropolis for this ministry and under the leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, the leadership of this ministry has committed itself to the following goals:

- Educate and engage the faithful of the Metropolis in Evangelism and Mission
  - Fulfill the the Great Commission
  - Assist in the establishment and growth of mission parishes to achieve self sufficiency
  - Further the work and programs of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in St. Augustine, Florida
- Enhance inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the establishment of domestic mission parishes

The Metropolis of San Francisco's Strategic Plan, unveiled in 2014, defined three strategic objectives for Missions & Evangelism, which have become C.O.M.E.'s task to fulfill:

- Establish and support Missions & Evangelism Ministries in each parish.
- Plant five new parishes in 10 years.
- Parish Mentoring

Please visit the COME website and pray on how we as individuals and as a community can help with this beautiful ministry!



*“The Lord’s mercies are innumerable.”*  
– St. John of Kronstadt

## Introduction to Orthodoxy Class

The Cathedral’s Intro to Orthodoxy class, taught by Alexander Kozak, has now entered its eighth year! The class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey, but it is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith.

The class explores Christian theology and practice through reading selections of Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or re-discover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact Alexandros Kozák at [orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com](mailto:orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com).

## Xronia Polla for Namedays in November!

Best wishes to the following individuals, and others, who celebrate their name days this month:

- Maria Allen
- Philip Athanasiades
- Michael Bagatelos
- Pres. Stella Bekris
- Katerina Haras Cazanis
- Philip Chiappari
- Stephen James Chiappari
- Andrew Curd
- Katherine Curd
- Andrew Demetry
- Katherine Dermitzakis
- Stelios Diamantopoulos
- Philip Economopoulos
- Michael Franco
- Michael Franco
- Michael Garibaldi
- Katie Grohs
- Angela Hernandez
- Katherine Johns
- Kathy Karas
- Michael Kasolas
- Andreas Kontonis
- Rev. Stephen Kyriacou
- Stelios Kyriacou
- Katherine T. Lampros
- Angie Leventis
- Kathryn Mares
- Michael Mavroudis
- Michael McKeon



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Nektarios L. McKnight  
Angie Milon  
Michael Misthos  
Steven Monolakis  
Michael Mountanos  
Andreas Mourelatos  
Katerina Nicolacakis  
Michael Nicolas  
Andrew Nuris  
Matthew Nuris  
Michael Panas  
Catherine Pantages  
Stella Pantazis  
Katherine Papageorgiou  
Angelo Prontzos  
Andreas Psarras  
Matthew Razis  
Katerina Sarikakis  
Michael Serpe  
Kosmas Skinas  
Efstratia Soultanakis  
Michael Stamatopoulos  
Michael Stratakis  
Katherine Truog  
Michael Truog  
Stelios Vafiadis  
Michael Valan  
Katerina Vardakastanis  
Andrew Vavuris  
Andrew Vellis  
Angelo Vorrises  
Angie Vrakas  
Michael Vriheas  
Nektaria Warren  
Andy Weldezghi  
Katie Yeilding  
Andrew Yousef  
Angie Zarikos

The above list was gleaned from our database. Granted, not all names of all people celebrating their name days this month are necessarily in our data base. It is still very much a work in progress. Please forgive any omissions. For your information, we have included a line on our 2016 pledge card asking you not only for the name you go by but also for your baptismal name, as we fine tune our list.

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. The suggested donation for sponsorship is \$100. For more information, please call the office at (415) 864-8814.

*\*\* The information above was taken from the data submitted on our 2015 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 2015 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. Community Link is a small group of Annunciation parishioners who visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. Please keep them in your prayers!

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## A Message from the Greek Historical Society of the San Francisco Bay Area

Dear Friends, we have entered into an agreement with Arcadia Publishing to publish the historical society's first book, "The Greeks of San Francisco." We are in the process of gathering photographs for the book. We are looking for photographs that capture the religious, cultural, political and business life of the early Greek community (1880s - 1965). Deadline for submission of photographs is November 15, 2015. Please include a short statement identifying the photograph - date, people and event. You may scan the photograph to 300 dpi or submit the original photograph to the historical society to be scanned and promptly returned.

Thank you for your assistance in this sacred endeavor to honor those in our community who came before us. Please contact Mary Zamboukos at maryzamb@comcast.net or Jim Lucas at jim@loukas.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

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## Cathedral Office Team

Many, many thanks to our team of office volunteers! Over the last year, these beloved Cathedral parishioners have generously volunteered their time and commitment to several of our bigger mailings. 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 the remainder of this year, as well. Thank you!

*\*\*The Cathedral office team always welcomes additional assistance from those who are able and willing to offer. If you'd like to join the office team, please call (415) 864-8000\*\**

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## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Greetings from Philoptochos! It is always exciting as we begin a new Ecclesiastical Year. We plan our calendar to reflect helping those in need. As strong Philoptochos women we do much on our own but as we work together our possibilities are endless. May this year be one of limitless possibilities!

I would like to thank all of our Philoptochos women who worked to prepare the pastries and food items for the Taste of Greece Festival. Your willingness to participate in all areas when called on was remarkable. You are truly a great team of women and I salute you!

National Philoptochos Announces National Breast Cancer Month  
Philoptochos strives to make one aware of this disease and to educate and empower you to be aware of this disease. According to the National Foundation for Cancer Research there are some simple things you can do to reduce risk. This is in addition to regular screenings and clinical exams.

1. Avoid using tobacco products
2. Include more fruits and vegetables in your diet
3. Increase fiber in your diet
4. Limit alcohol intake
5. Wear sunscreen that protects from UVA and UVB rays when outdoors  
Avoid indoor tanning
6. Maintain physical activity and a healthy weight
7. Know the warning signs for common cancers and perform regular self-exams

For more info check the National Philoptochos website NFCR website.

*“And let us consider one another in order  
to stir up love and good works”*

*– Hebrews 10:24*

The above quote from scripture was part of the Philoptochos Fall Spiritual Conference held at St. Nicholas Retreat Center September 24-27. The theme Philanthropy-Fellowship- Faith in Action showed the emphasis was to connect with other women to promote Philoptochos at the National, Metropolis and Chapter levels. National Philoptochos Assistant Treasurer Georgia Vlittas addressed the Conference attendees on “Hands On” philanthropy. She wowed us with a presentation on the new National Philoptochos initiative “Feeding the Hungry”. Included with the presentation were sheets showing how to reach out to the hungry in our individual communities. A second speaker, Presbyteria Donna Pappas from St. George Church in Fresno, offered an inspiring presentation on “What’s that you say?” “Death and life are the power of the tongue” Proverbs 18:21a. All ministries and financial commitments the Philoptochos Metropolis were reviewed. The excitement of a sixth new camp under Kids N Cancer and the St. Nicholas Shrine were discussed. Out Metropolis is truly dynamic and one that continually moves forward under the guidance of President Jeannie Ranglas and His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos. For further info on the Conference check with Pat Aleck.

Beginning in November our chapter will present new ideas for helping children at Christmas. We may still set up our Angel Tree

Project or present to our community a new project. Look for further info as to how we can all help.

### Upcoming Events:

Light the Path Luncheon sponsored by the Metropolis Philoptochos to support the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment will be held Saturday, December 12, 2015 at Ascension Cathedral in Oakland.

Annunciation Philoptochos Vasilopita – Sunday, January 10, 2016  
Philoptochos Annual Crab Feed – Friday, January 29, 2016  
Annunciation Philoptochos Membership Drive – January thru March 2016

Our chapter members look forward to working with all our community members as we move together in the coming year.

On behalf of our chapter I extend our warmest regards and Love in Christ.

*Patricia Aleck  
Philoptochos President*

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## YOUTH NEWS

### Annunciation Dance Year Kicks Off!!

Our new dance year is once again underway, and there are now FIVE dance groups at the Cathedral!

**Pre-K group, turning 3 1/2 - 4 in 2015, or entering PreK or Kindergarten in fall 2016**  
**Beginning elementary group, Kindergarten-2nd grade in Fall 2015**  
**Thisavri, 3rd -5th grade in Fall 2015**  
**Spithes, 6th-10th grade in Fall 2015**  
**Ekrixi, 18 and up.**

Please contact **Lea Lyberopoulos**, dance board president, at [karthia808@yahoo.com](mailto:karthia808@yahoo.com) for further information.

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### Greek School, now well into our 2015-2016 School Year

Greek school has resumed classes for the new school year! Our Greek School program meets every Saturday from 10 am - 12:15 pm (same time as last year). The school offers pre-school classes and through level 5. Tuition is \$500 for the school year, and there is currently space to enroll your child. If interested, please contact the director, **Anthi Janssens** at [anthij@comcast.net](mailto:anthij@comcast.net).

**‘Like’  
Annunciation  
Cathedral Sunday  
School!**



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# SAN JOSE VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

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The Adult Team took 3rd and 4th place in the volleyball tournament

## Altar Groups in November

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. For the 2015-2016 school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers will take on the responsibility of coordinating the groups during services each week. We hope to add several more to their ranks in the coming years!

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!

Our altar schedule for this month is as follows:

November 1- Group 1  
 November 8- Group 2  
 November 15- Group 3  
 November 22- Group 4  
 November 29- Thanksgiving Weekend, All Welcome

Our altar groups are as follow:

Group 1 - Stelio Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis (Demetri Kontonis- Group Leader)

Group 2 - Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, Sean Souza (Niko Manetas- Group Leader)

Group 3 - Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Steven Chiappari, Gianni Kefalas, Nicholas Shatara (Demetri Kontonis- Group Leader)

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

**\*\*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" or by emailing Johanna at [jduterte@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:jduterte@sanfran.goarch.org).

## SACRAMENTS

### BAPTISMS

**Christos Nikolaos Bekris**, son of **Father Niko** and **Presbytera Stella Bekris**, was baptized on October 10. His Godparents are **Father Panagiotis** and **Presbytera Angela Sotiras**.

**Robbie Constantino Fisher**, son of **Alex Zaphiris, M.D.** and **Gary Fisher**, was baptized on October 17. His Godmother is **Joanne Zaphiris**.

**Panayiota Chrsitina Georgatos**, daughter of **Nicko** and **Chrisoula (Papadakos) Georgatos**, was baptized on October 24. Her Godparents are **Evry Melitas** and **Irene Melitas**.

*Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!*

# NOVEMBER CALENDAR

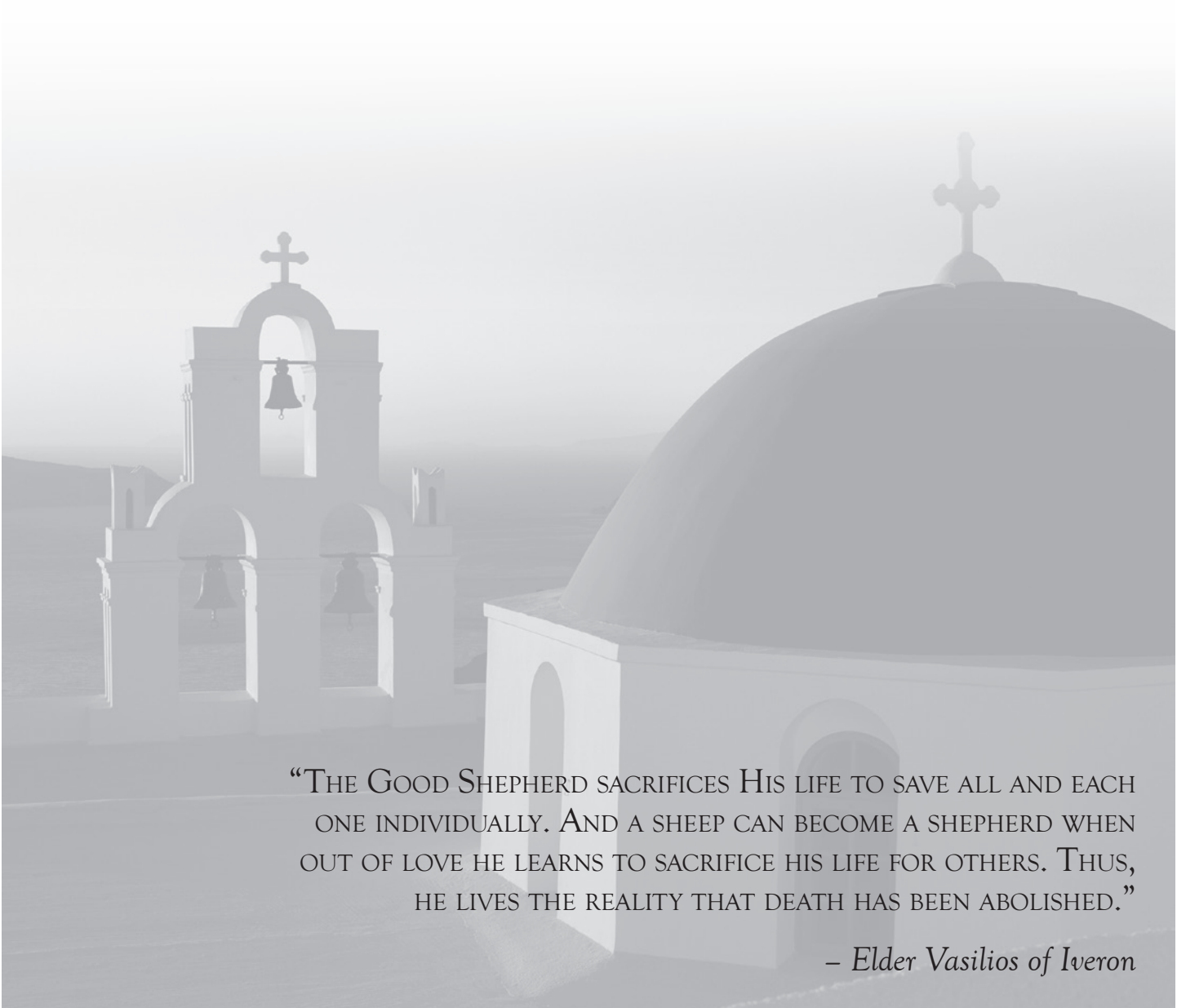
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon		Pre-Marriage Class, 7 pm; Catechism Class, 8 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am			Greek School, 10 am  Metropolitan Gerasimos Anniversary Dinner (Belmont)
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon  Fr. Niko & Pres. Stella Farewell Luncheon, 12:30 pm  Welcome Hellenic College/Holy Cross President, the Rev. Chris Metropoulos	Divine Liturgy, 10 am (St. Nektarios)		Construction Meeting, 10 am	Young Adult Wine Bar & Fundraiser, 7 pm	Metropolis GOYA Lock- In (Oakland), 7 pm	Greek School, 10 am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon Parish Council, 12:30 pm		Soup Kitchen, 6:30 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am			Orthros 9 am; Divine Liturgy, 10 am, Presentation of the Virgin to the Temple  Greek School, 10 am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon			Construction Meeting, 10 am	Thanksgiving, Liturgy, 10 a.m., St. Stylianos	Offices Closed	
29	30					
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon	Divine Liturgy, 10 am, St. Andrew the First-Called					

*“The Good Shepherd sacrifices His life to save all and each one individually. And a sheep can become a shepherd when out of love he learns to sacrifice his life for others. Thus, he lives the reality that death has been abolished.”*

– ELDER VASILIOS OF IVERON

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
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– *Elder Vasilios of Iveron*