



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 · 415 864-8000 · FAX 415 431-5860 · WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG

APRIL 2016

## Champions!

Congratulations to the Annunciation Boys Middle School Team which recently captured the OYAA League Tournament Championship. The boys defeated Ascension in the playoffs and St. Nicholas of San Jose in the Championship game finishing the season with a 7-1 record. The team did a great job all season and consisted of Alexander Kasolas, Bobby Kontonis, Stelios Kyriacou, Matthew Nuris, A.J. Pakos, Justin Perez, Yianni Sogotis and Coaches Nick Kontonis and Tom Nuris.



## It's all about youth, because youth are our future!

We are thrilled to announce another successful basketball season for our boys elementary, girls middle school and boys middle school teams. On behalf of all of the coaches and parents, we are proud of our children's achievements and excited that the basketball program is such a success. Our girls middle school team

improved dramatically throughout the season and finished with a trip to the championship game where they ultimately took second place. Our middle school boys team also went to their championship game where they won a thrilling game to take home first place. We are proud of all of our children. Go Annunciation!



Our girls team—MVP in sportsmanship!



Our boys elementary team. Great job!





Our middle school boys team, along with their coaches, Tom Nuris and Nick Kontonis, shown presenting their championship trophy to the Cathedral, on March 13. Shown with members of the team are His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and Father Stephen.

“They said to Him, ‘Do You hear what these are saying?’ And Jesus said to them, ‘Yes. Have you never read, “Out of the mouth of babes and nursing infants You have perfected praise?”’”  
Matthew 21:16 NKJV

## The Cross that Will go on top of the Dome

Shown below is the cross that will go on top of the new Cathedral’s dome. It is made of bronze, stands nine feet tall and weighs 470 pounds. Father Stephen, along with Presbytera Aliki, John Goldman, our Architect, and Ken Katen, our Cathedral Engineer, recently visited the shop where the cross was fabricated. The company that made this cross also made the smaller cross, which will go above the entrance to the Cathedral.



As noted, the design is taken from Constantinople’s earlier Hagia Sophia, i.e. the one built prior to Justinian’s “Great Church.” It is usually referred to as the Theodosian Hagia Sophia. The cross is more restrained than its 6th century counterpart. The same motif will also appear on the stone pillars throughout the new church. We’ve asked before, perhaps rhetorically, “is there someone out there who would like the great privilege of placing the cross above the dome,” effectively donating the Cathedral’s magnificent dome? In other words, is there someone willing to make that \$1 million gift? The question is not so rhetorical, as there are a number of individuals out there with the means to make this kind of gift. We believe

this will happen, as it happened that Anne and Anne Mountanos donated \$5 million to the Building Fund to enable us to begin the project, as Katherine Costopoulos left \$1.3 million to the Building Fund to enable us to continue, as 355 additional individuals and families, so far, have altogether donated \$5 million. Your giving is an example of your faith. Your faith is making the impossible possible—the building of a great cathedral—a cathedral of the Greek Orthodox Faith—your faith—right in the heart of one of the world’s great cities. Below is a list of the donors (those who’ve actually given...), who are making the dreams of our predecessors, as well as the dreams of our children and grandchildren, come true. Efharisto! (Thank you.)







*The Ieron Dome.*

## Building Update

Progress on the new Cathedral is moving along very well. We had two weeks of wet weather, which slowed down the window installation, but with the return of clear weather, the pace of work has picked back up

Currently about half the windows have been installed, with the main and Ieron dome windows completely installed. It is expected that the rest will be installed by early April. All of the dome windows and selected other windows (those with the “worst case” weather exposure) were tested for watertightness. The dome windows are all being tested because both domes will have extensive ikonography and we want to be assured it will be protected from any outside moisture.. Any windows that did not meet the test requirements were corrected and retested. Besides the formal testing, the severe storms in mid-March provided another level of testing, and the dome windows performed well in the face of real-life severe weather.

With the return of dry weather, the copper roof subcontractor was able to come out in mid-March to measure the domes. The roofs should be fabricated and installed by mid- to late April. After testing various “prepatina-ing” treatments, it was decided to leave the copper with its natural finish and let it weather in place. It will likely patina to brown for some time, and eventually will become a lovely verdigris green (not as bright as the green waterproofing membrane that has shown in recent pictures). The two polished bronze crosses have been fabricated, and the cross atop the main dome will be staged on its supporting mast while the copper roof

is being installed. Once that’s done, and the wiring for the LED uplighting is completed, the cross will be gently lowered to its final mount atop the dome. The copper roof and bright bronze cross will be a significant new addition to the San Francisco skyline, and even after the copper patinas, the crosses will remain a bright golden color for some time.

While the window installation was being finished, the wooden trim and gutter channels were fabricated and attached. The wooden gutters will be lined with copper, with copper gutters and downspouts. Besides being in harmony with the dome roofs, copper gutters will be another lifetime solution to manage runoff from the roofs. The Mission-style clay tile roofs will be laid down once the gutters are all finished.

Once the windows are installed and tested successfully, the next step will be to apply the stucco external wall finishes. At that point, the new Cathedral will really take on its final outer form. After the stucco work is finished, a cast-stone wainscot will be installed around the base of the building, a nice finishing touch.

The slab drains into the parking garage are being plumbed in for eventual connection to the City’s storm sewer system, and this will allow work in the garage to proceed without further flooding from any incidental storms. We hope to have the parking garage operating by early fall. Once the stucco work is completed, the remaining exposed slab areas will be waterproofed and covered with pavers set in sand, so that there will be no standing water in the courtyard during wet weather.

# Capital Campaign Donors

## Pinnacle

Mountanos, Anne and Angelo

## Founders

(\$1,000,000 +)

Costopoulos, Katherine

## Cornerstone

(\$250,000 - \$999,999)

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(\$25,000 - \$49,999)

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(\$15,000 - \$24,999)

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Kontonis, Andrew & Maria

Kontrafouris, Tom & Joyce

Kosaris, Paul & Irene

Koutoulas, Panagiota

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Psarras, Mr. and Mrs. Andreas

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Razis, Matthew & Harriet

Selimis, Nikos

Shuhaibar, Constantine

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Vrakas, Eleni

Zakynthian Glendi

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(\$1,000 - \$4,999)

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Kalessis, Dimitrios & Catherine

Kallas, Louise

Kascampas, Giota

Katsanis, Gari

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KorPontinos, Bessie

Kottas, Angelos

Kouropoulos, Georgia

Kyriacou, Panteleimon

Kyriacou, Stelios

Kyriacou, Thanos

Kyriacou, Vasilia

Kyriacou, Vlas

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Mavroudis, Aglaia

Mellos, Faye

Monolakis, John & Demetra

Moulas, Vicky A.

Mourelatos, Mary and Andreas

Mourgos, George

Oetzel, Robert & Pauline

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Pappas, Voula

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Vorries, Stephanie

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## Less than

(\$1,000\*)

Agnost, Frank

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Contopoulos, Rebecca

Dedes, Constantina

Demakas, George

Dhawan, Ari & Brittany

Drolapas, Themis & Anthula

Eritrean Community

Fanourgiakis, Dimitrios & Mary

Finnegan, Peter



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## OIKOS Lecture Series Continues

As announced in recent Sunday bulletins, OIKOS (Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services), under the direction of Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., and the assistance of Dr. Tony Elite, is sponsoring a series of talks aimed at informing, engaging, and edifying our parishioners in any number of areas involving individual and communal spiritual growth, family dynamics, and parish life. The lectures take place the first Sunday of each month, during the coffee hour. For Sunday, April 3, our speaker will be Basil Crow, Annunciation Cathedral Chanter. Basil Crow has been studying and practicing the art of Byzantine chant from the age of thirteen. Basil received his Sc.B. in Computer Science in 2011 and his Sc.M. in Computer Science in 2012, both from Brown University. He currently works as a software engineer at Delphix and holds the position of Lambadarios at the Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco.

On April 3, Basil will speak on the Spirituality of Greek Orthodox Ecclesiastical Chant. Following is an abstract of his talk: The ecclesiastical music of the Greek Orthodox Church, often referred to as "Byzantine chant," boasts an uninterrupted history that stems from the local chant traditions of the ancient Eucharistic communities throughout the Christian world. It was systematized primarily by St. John of Damascus (in the eighth century) and St. John Koukouzelis (in the fourteenth century). We will discuss the unique purpose of ecclesiastical music in the Greek Orthodox Church (in contrast to that of the secular music of Orthodox cultures) and its underlying theology, philosophy, and spirituality. We will also show how the uniquely Orthodox heritage of this music directly influenced its millennium-long evolution. Finally, we will discuss how this sacred art form continues to evolve in the 21st century.

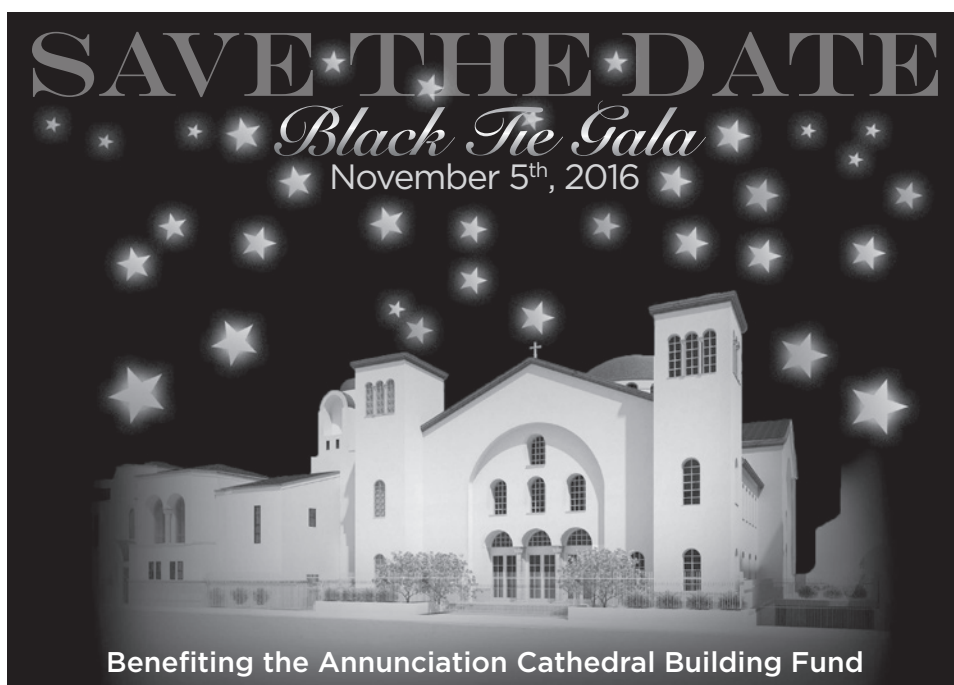
Because of Pascha (May 1) and Mother's Day (May 8), the talk for May, by Professor Martha Klironomos, Ph.D. will take place on

Sunday, May 15. Martha Klironomos is the Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at San Francisco State University where she has been teaching courses in Modern Greek language and literature as well as in Comparative and English literature since 1996. She previously held an appointment as an Assistant Professor in Modern Greek literature at McGill University from 1994-1996 and was a Canada Council Post-doctoral Fellow at the Seferis Chair at Harvard University from 1993-1994. She received her PhD in English with specialization in Modern Greek literature from the Ohio State University in 1993.

Her topic for May 15 is on the Bloomsbury Group and how their travels to Greece, Italy and the Mediterranean inspired the integration of Byzantine motifs into their art. She will talk about Virginia Woolf's sister, the artist Vanessa Bell, as well as other influential artists in that group including Duncan Grant and Roger Fry. Time permitting, she will also show a few slides of public buildings in England that also were inspired by Byzantine architectural aesthetics and prototypes.

Future speakers include Dr. Kostoulas, Dr. Anthony Elite, Janine Economides, wife of Professor Nicholas Economides, and Steven Harris, Ph.D.

Dr. Harris, a certified Jungian Psychotherapist and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, will speak to us on Sunday, November 13 (the feast of St. John Chrysostom). A Clinical Psychologist practicing in Newport Beach, CA, he worships at the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Serbian Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA. Dr. Harris is also the former Clinical Director for the Center for Individual and Family Therapy in Orange, CA and was Professor at the Californian Graduate Institute and Professor and Dean of Academic Affairs at the American Behavior Studies Institute, where he also edited the Psychotherapy Integration Journal.



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### Gala Date: November 5, 2016

To celebrate our 95th anniversary and the rebuilding of our Cathedral church devastated by the Loma Prieta earthquake 27 years ago, we are holding a Black Tie Gala on Saturday, November 5, 2016. All proceeds will benefit the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund. Come join us in supporting the rebuilding of this San Francisco landmark and home of our Metropolis Cathedral. For more information, please email [cathedralgala2016@gmail.com](mailto:cathedralgala2016@gmail.com).

"Build me a sanctuary, and I will appear among you." Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἄγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν. (Exodus 25:8)

*“Christians live upon earth, but they have their citizenship in heaven.”*

Epistle to Diognetus, 5.9

### Plans underway to celebrate big time!

The Annunciation Cathedral is celebrating 95 years since its founding in 1921 as the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of Saint Sophia in San Francisco.

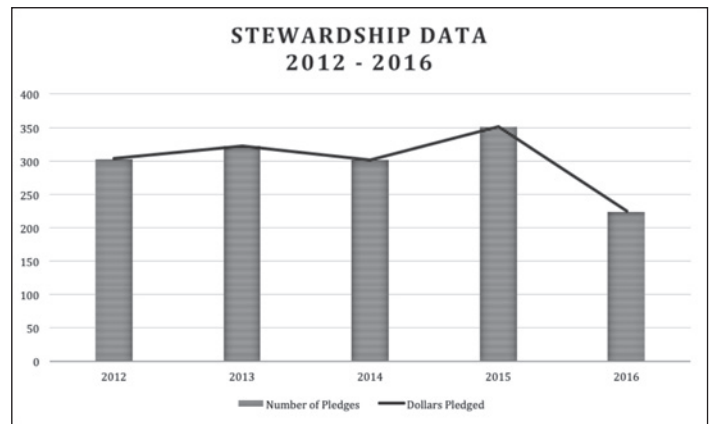
In 1936, the Cathedral reorganized as the United Greek Orthodox Church of San Francisco.

The Gala event on November 5, 2016 will mark this historic time in the life of our Cathedral. You are all part of the history of the Cathedral if you are a member, if you were baptized or married here, or if your parents or grandparents were members, baptized or married there. You have a unique connection to this historic house of worship and the center of our Greek Orthodox Faith in the heart of the City.

The November 5 Gala is the first step as we make our way towards our 100th Anniversary in 2021! At that time we hope to invite His All Holiness, Patriarch Bartholomew, to come and consecrate our Cathedral. (Recall, he broke ground for the Cathedral back in 1997.) Please keep November 5, 2016 on your calendar! We look forward to celebrating with all of the Cathedral family throughout its 95 year history!



Members of the Gala Committee at a recent meeting.



### A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

The financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2015 was the highest in recent history and 2016 is off to a good start. In 2015, a total of 351 pledges came in totaling nearly 300,000 dollars. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the Cathedral operating, it was a great beginning to what promises to be continued growth for our community. The average pledge amount has increased over recent years and that is a testimony to your support. The average pledge amount for 2016 is currently at \$970.00, a 13.5% increase over last year; we can easily reach a \$1000.00 annual pledge average by the end of the year. Our annual pledge goal for 2016 is to exceed \$300,000. With your continued support, love for the Lord and His people, and willingness, we can easily achieve this goal.

### 2016 is the Cathedral’s Year to Host the IOCC Banquet: Angie Leventis steps up!

The banquet, typically held the first Sunday in November, is held at one of the Bay Area Churches. 2016 is the Cathedral’s year to host the banquet, which raises funds for the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC). This inter-Orthodox fellowship begins with the celebration of Vespers, and continues with a reception, a silent auction, and dinner. Entertainment usually consists of performances by various Bay Area dance groups. As this is so close to our November 5 Gala (either the next day or the following Sunday), we need to put together a committee of 5-6 people to begin planning. In response to the question and the invitation put to you in the March Herald, i.e. would you like to serve as a member of the organizing committee of the IOCC banquet at the Cathedral this November and, we are pleased to let you know that Angie Leventis stepped up to take the lead on this. She will be working with an inter-Orthodox committee of individuals who’ve helped with past IOCC dinners. However, as the Cathedral will be hosting the event, we need to put a host committee of 5-6 people together. Please give this your prayerful consideration, as IOCC is the foremost Orthodox Christian organization that is out there—in Syria, in Iraq, in the United States—anywhere in the world where there is need—that responds to emergencies of every kind. It is worthy of our support and continued prayers. So, please give Angie a hand. She may be reached at [aleventis3@comcast.net](mailto:aleventis3@comcast.net)

## 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 may be April, but it's not too soon to be thinking about our 2016 Greek Food Festival

The 2016 Greek Food Festival will take place, once again, in our facility at 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, September 16, 17, and 18, 2016. Once again, Grace Koutoulas and Deno Konstantinidis will serve as Festival co-chairs. They are calling together their team of volunteers from 2015, along with new volunteers, and asking for your assistance. (Really, it's fun!) The first meeting, to get things organized, will take place on Tuesday, March 22, beginning at 7 p.m. Please consider getting involved, since the Festival is only as good as the volunteers who work to put it together (and our Festivals have been simply fabulous!). For more information, please contact Grace, [gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com](mailto:gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com), or Deno, [denocom@hotmail.com](mailto:denocom@hotmail.com).

## 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

## 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 discount card; the Cathedral will pay \$7 of the parking cost for Stewards. To pick up a parking pass or to discuss your stewardship, please see Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Chairman. If you are a supporting member of the Cathedral, in other words a Steward, you get the card. Street parking is also available on Sundays, especially along the 217' construction zone in front of the Cathedral. For your convenience, an attendant is on hand each Sunday to monitor the drop off zone and direct parking to the parking 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. This relationship with the lot behind the Cathedral will end as soon as our own parking structure is up and running.

*“Christ rose from the dead as God, by nature being God and man.”*

Melito of Sardis, on Pascha, 8



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## 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 rediscover), 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).

## Eleni Tsakopoulos Kounalakis Named Port Commissioner

On Monday, March 7, Mayor Ed Lee issued the Oath of Office to Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis, along with other new and returning appointees. Ambassador Kounalakis was named Port Commissioner for San Francisco. This is indeed an honor for the Ambassador, as well as for the entire community. We congratulate Eleni on this achievement, and wish her well in her new post, during this very exciting time of unprecedented growth and development in San Francisco.

*"[Constantine's soldiers] saw with their own eyes in the sky itself...a trophy of a cross, consisting of light, and an inscription fastened to it that said, "By this conquer."*

Eusebius, Life of Constantine, 1.28

## 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 Pauline Oetzel at [poetzel@hotmail.com](mailto:poetzel@hotmail.com). Please keep Community Link and our home-bound brothers and sisters in your prayers!

## Soup Kitchen: won't you help Volunteer?

As noted, the Soup Kitchen operates the third Tuesday of every month. It involves food prep, hall setup, serving the meal and – so important! – cleanup. We also have a food pantry, so a few awesome volunteers come early to bag up canned/non-perishable goods for our guests to take with them. Some volunteers arrive earlier, but the typical timeframe is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Won't you consider volunteering once in a while? All you have to do is

show up. By the way, there's no age limit. We have teenagers volunteering and we have people "forever young" volunteering. It would be truly wonderful to expand our volunteer base, so we can do more. Please communicate your willingness to Father Stephen, [fatherstephen@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org). He will put you in touch to those who've taken the lead and are coordinating this important ministry. Thank you.



Tom and His Eminence carving the turkeys at the March Soup Kitchen.



Serving our guests at the March 2016 Soup Kitchen.



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## Parish Council Names Committees: How about getting Involved:

At its February 28 meeting, the Parish Council named its various working committees for 2016. These are: Stewardship, Technology, Hall Management, Youth, Protocol, Capital Campaign, 2016 Gala, OIKOS, and Festival. Members of the Parish Council joined the various committees as follows: Gus Vouchilas, Paul Sogotis, Nick Svetcoff, Chris Kyriacou and Niko Stathopoulos joined the Stewardship Committee; Nick Rally and Deno Konstantinidis joined the Technology Committee, Dean Nicolacakis, Pat Aleck, Chris Kyriacou, Philippos Athanasiades, George Gavros and Grace Koutoulas joined the Hall Management Committee; Tom Nuris and Deno Konstantinidis joined the Youth Committee; Paul Sogotis joined the Protocol Committee, Chris Kyriacou, Philippos Athanasiades and Tom Nuris joined the Capital Campaign Committee; Paul Sogotis, Tessa Ambus and Irene Kyriacou joined the Gala Committee; Dr. Katina Kostoulas and Dr. Anthony Elite, as moderator, joined OIKOS (esp. the lecture series), and Deno Konstantinidis and Grace Koutoulas the Festival Committee. However, committees are open to everyone and everyone is invited to attend and participate. If you are interested in becoming a part of these working committees of our community, please see Chris Kyriacou, Parish Council president.

## Street Closure Sunday, April 10

San Francisco's street closure program involves the closing of several streets periodically during the year. Valencia Street will be closed to automobile traffic on Sunday, April 10 11 a.m.-4 p.m. You will still be able to access the church by driving down 14th Street, and taking a left onto Valencia Street. To depart the Cathedral, turn right onto Valencia Street. The personnel in charge of the street closure program have assured us there will be no glitches, as there have been in the past. If you should experience any, we ask you to let us know immediately. The Cathedral, in turn, will file a protest. No one wishing to come to church can be denied access. That's the law. We are happy to cooperate with the City, to provide for pedestrian access to the streets on specified days. At the same time, we have stressed to the organizers the difficulty this poses for our parishioners, and they have assured us they will cooperate with us for the betterment of all concerned. Please note, Valencia Street will also be closed on Sunday, August 21.

## A Dating Site for Orthodox

Hardly an evening of television watching goes by without an ad or two from various dating sites reaching out to Christians. Orthodox Christians have been plugging into these and other sites, asking "is there a site out there that is uniquely Orthodox?" Well, there is. Ancient Faith Radio is featuring a talk by Subdeacon Adam Lowell Roberts, entitled "Choose Wisely—An Orthodox Christian's Guide to Courting." Here, he joins Father Barnabas Powell in discussing the importance of finding an Orthodox mate. Subdeacon Adam is founder of Orthodox and Single, a web site designed to help Orthodox singles find one another. The program was originally aired on February 14. It is 1:31:50 in length. Here is the link: [http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/faithencouragedlive/choose\\_wisely](http://www.ancientfaith.com/podcasts/faithencouragedlive/choose_wisely)

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

As announced, the Cathedral has been receiving small donations from Amazon.com's AmazonSmile program, in which the Cathedral has been enrolled for about a year. If you sign up for AmazonSmile (this is 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'.

*"Remember God more than you breathe," says St. Gregory of Nazianzus (died 389). Prayer is more essential to us, more an integral part of ourselves, than the rhythm of our breathing or the beating of our heart. Without prayer there is no life. Prayer is our nature. As human persons we are created for prayer just as we are created to speak and to think. The human animal is best defined, not as a logical or tool-making animal or an animal that laughs, but rather as an animal that prays, a Eucharistic animal, capable of offering the world back to God in thanksgiving and intercession.*

(Praying with the Orthodox Tradition, foreword by Bishop Kallistos Ware)

## PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

### Greetings from Philoptochos as we begin our spiritual journey towards the Feast of Holy Pascha! *Crab Feed 2016*

What a wonderful event the Philoptochos 2016 crab event turned out to be. Close to 450 attendees feasted on the delicious crab and food courses prepared by chairs Rose Sogotis and Annamarie Balian and all the numerous Philoptochos members and parishioners who worked and helped make this event come to fruition. We can't thank everyone enough who participated in all the different areas of preparation to make this such a successful event. The support of all who attended really helps us garner the funds for our many Philoptochos ministries. We look forward to seeing all next year.

#### *Easter Bake Sale 2016*

This year Orthodox Easter takes place on May first. During the month of April we will be taking orders for our delicious Easter Breads, red eggs and koulourakia. We hope you will purchase these wonderful items for your Easter festivities. The **pickup date orders will be Friday, April 29, 2016 (10 AM to 3 PM) and on Saturday, April 30, 2016 (10 AM to 12 PM)**. Please take the time to fill out an order form and enjoy these Easter goodies with family and friends. **The deadline for orders is April 23, 2016. Get your orders in early!**

#### *Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show*

This year's Mother's day will be held at the Cathedral on **Saturday, May 7, 2016**, Chair Irene Kyriacou and her committee are planning a wonderful event filled with fun, fashions, a great lunch and music. We will be honoring two special Mothers of the year who will represent all of us for the day. **Look for the flyer in the April Herald and your invitations in the mail.** Come celebrate with our members on this special day.

We wish to thank everyone who helped with prep of our Philoptochos March 25<sup>th</sup> luncheon. This follows the service which celebrates the Feast Day of our Cathedral. Special thanks to Stella Catering, to Despina Kokalis for donating the fish in honor of her beloved husband of blessed memory and to Polytimi Peters who donated towards the rice and salad.

Our Philoptochos sends special blessings to all our parishioners on their journey to the special light of Pascha! Kali Sarakosti.

### Share this Link

Share this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2702215> and ask your donors, volunteers, employees, and friends to bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will benefit Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

**Copy and paste this message in a Facebook post:** When you shop at AmazonSmile, Amazon donates 0.5% of the purchase price to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral. Bookmark the link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2702215> and support us every time you shop.

**Copy and paste this message in a Tweet:** Amazon donates to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral when you shop @AmazonSmile. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2702215> #YouShopAmazonGives



*Some of our legendary cooks!*



*A bird's eye view of the Crab Feed.*

Χριστὸς ἀνέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν,  
θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας  
καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι  
ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.

*Christ is risen from the dead, by death  
trampling down upon death, and to  
those in the tombs He has granted life.*

*Troparion of Pascha*





*The Annunciation Cathedral's  
Ladies Philoptochos invites you to  
our 57<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Mother's Day Luncheon  
and Fashion Show  
Saturday, May 7, 2016*

*Cathedral of the Annunciation 245 Valencia St., San Francisco, California*

*12:00 Cocktail Reception ~ 12:30 Lunch*

*Donation: Adults \$55.00 ~ Children \$25.00 Seating is limited.*

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE BY MAY 2, 2016

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE NO. \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE RESERVE \_\_\_\_ ADULT @ \$55 AND \_\_\_\_ CHILDREN UNDER 10 YEARS @ \$25 TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

VEGETARIAN PLATE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST WITH RESERVATION.

PLEASE LIST ALL ATTENDEES' NAMES ON THE BACK OF THIS FORM. TABLES OF 10 AVAILABLE.

TICKET AND SEAT ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE HELD FOR YOU AT THE DOOR.

I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND AND WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO PHILOPTOCHOS CHARITIES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_

FOR RESERVATIONS OR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL ANGIE LEVENTIS (650) 878-2855 OR CONTACT  
BY EMAIL ANGIE LEVENTIS ~ ALEVENTIS3@COMCAST.NET IRENE KYRIACOU ~ SASSYGRK@AOL.COM

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# YOUTH NEWS

## GOYA News

A meeting of the parents of GOYA age children (13 to 18 years old) took place recently. We thank our parents for meeting and considering the following : 1) articulation of a vision for the Annunciation Cathedral 2) immediate programmatic needs for GOYA, and 3) consideration of volunteer/paid non-parent Youth Worker. A date for parents and children to meet for a meal, for further discussion and for election of GOYA officers, following FDF (some time in March), was also considered, as were events for our youth, moving forward. Meanwhile, we thank you, the parents, for your continued vigilance on behalf of our children, as we endeavor to strengthen this youth ministry of our parish.

## Dance Group News

We are very proud of our 3 groups that represented the Cathedral so well at this year's annual Folk Dance Festival held in Anaheim, CA February 11-14<sup>th</sup>. FDF's 40<sup>th</sup> year was marked with many special moments, including a reunion performance of some of the first dancers that ever participated in FDF. A few of these dancers

have not missed a single FDF since it's inception, bringing their children and family members to this special event! We are challenged to make the next 40 years just as special and uphold the culture and heritage we cherish.

We are blessed with a dedicated directing team that works hard all year teaching our children, in addition to conducting research, arranging workshops, planning fundraisers, making costumes, etc. They are:

**Irene Kyriacou, Katerina Sarikakis and Eleni Taptelis, who direct To Mellon**  
**Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou, who direct both Spithes and Thisavri**  
**Michael and Nicole Garibaldi, who direct Ekrixi**

All of our dance groups will be accepting new dancers when they start their rehearsals in April/May. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at [karthia808@yahoo.com](mailto:karthia808@yahoo.com) for more information.

**To Mellon:** Pre-k/K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade in Fall 2016 (must be at least 4 years old in Fall 2016)

**Thisavri:** 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade in Fall 2016

**Spithes:** 7<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup> grade in Fall 2016

**Ekrixi:** 18 and up



*Our groups presenting their medals following this year's FDF.*



*Our dedicated directors.*



*Rewarded for all their hard work.*



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## Sunday School News

### Kudos to our St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Participants!

Kudos to our 8 Sunday School Students who participated in the Oratorical Festival on March 13th. All of them so eloquently expressed their feelings about their Faith and Church to the entire congregation. We are so proud of them and hope this experience provided them confidence in their spiritual growth.

Elda Tesfai - 3rd Grade  
Alexander Kasolas - 6th Grade  
Elizabeth Monolakias - 6th Grade  
Maria Novo - 6th Grade  
Isabella Koutoulas - 7th Grade  
Christopher Percia - 7th Grade  
Anastasia Pezo - 7th Grade  
Yonas Tesfai - 10th Grade

Looking ahead - Sunday School will once again hold our traditional TGI Pascha program on April 29th from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. More details will be given to our children during Sunday School. Sunday School operates every Sunday (except during the summer months and holy days, as Christmas and Pascha, 10:30 a.m. until noon, with the last half hour spent in church. It is, therefore, imperative that children arrive in school by 10 a.m. We cannot stress enough the importance of attendance and participation, as we acknowledge and thank our dedicated teaching staff and those parents who regularly see to it that their children come to Sunday School.

As noted above, the parish St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival took place on Sunday, March 13. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos churched himself at the Cathedral that day and had the opportunity to hear our youngsters. Eight young people participated in all—a great turnout, considering the inclement weather. All this shows the dedication of our teachers and students and the seriousness with which our children take Sunday School—an opportunity to learn our Faith and to engage with various life and faith issues, as we grow in our Lord Jesus Christ. Shown below are the participants in this year's Oratorical Festival, with Metropolitan Gerasimos and Father Stephen.

'Like'  
Annunciation  
Cathedral Sunday  
School!



## Greek School News

Greek School operates every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children, grades 1 through 8, have the opportunity to learn the language and culture of Greece by specially trained and skilled teachers. Greek School will not meet Saturday, February 13 (President's Day and also FDF weekend). In addition, it will not meet on Saturday, April 30 (Holy Saturday) or on Saturday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend). The last day of the 2015-2016 school year is Saturday, June 11.

## Sunday School Calendar February – June 2016

April 3 Sunday of the Holy Cross  
Procession of the Cross  
April 10 Regular Classes  
April 17 God Parent Sunday  
April 24 Palm Sunday – Sunday School Class Photos  
Sunday School Music Lesson – Conference Room  
April 29 TGI Pascha – Good Friday  
May 1 Holy Pascha – Easter Sunday – No Sunday School  
May 8 Mother's Day – Class Project  
May 15 Regular Classes  
May 22 Sunday School Music Lesson – Conference Room  
May 29 Memorial Holiday – No Sunday School  
June 5 Last Day of Sunday School – Graduation Program

## Summer Camp at St. Nicholas

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is proud to announce the 36th 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 is a highlight of youth ministry throughout the year. All three sessions of Summer Camp are for campers ages 8 – 18.

### The dates for the 2016 Metropolis Summer Camp are:

Staff Orientation Week - July 5-9  
Session I - July 10-16  
Session II - July 17-23  
Session III July 24-30

*Due to high demand, campers are now limited to registering for only ONE session of summer camp.*

### Pricing for 2016:

\$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 and more information is now available online at [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org). You can make a deposit now to lock in the "Early Registration" pricing and make payments until June 15. Summer Camp Staff Applications are coming soon and will be available online at [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org)

For questions, please contact Johanna Duterte, Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, [JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org).

## Altar Groups in April

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 Stephen** at [fatherstephen@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherstephen@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:

**April 3 - Group 1 (Sunday of the Holy Cross)**

**April 10 - Group 2 (St. John Climacus)**

**April 17 - Group 3 (St. Mary of Egypt)**

**April 24 - Group 4 (Palm Sunday)**

**Note:** We also have Salutations Services Friday nights during the Great Lent, namely on April 1, April 8, and April 15 and also the Presanctified on April 22), as well as Saturday of Lazarus services on April 23 and Holy Week Services, as follows: Holy Monday, April 25; Holy Tuesday, April 26; Holy Wednesday, April 27, Holy Thursday, April 28, and Holy Friday, April 29. Evening Services begin at 7 p.m. Also on Holy Friday, we have services at 10 a.m. (the Great Hours) and at 1 p.m. (the Apokathylosis). On Holy Saturday, we have Liturgy at 8 a.m. and also the Paschal Vigil at 11 p.m., followed by Anastasis and the Paschal Liturgy. On Pascha, May 1, the Agape Vespers will be celebrated at 11 a.m. All altar boys are invited to participate in these special services.

Our altar groups are as follow:

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

**Group 2-** Christopher Apostolos Percia, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, (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, Alexander Kasolas, Matthew Nuris (Jonas Tesfai- Group Leader)

*“Watchfulness is a steadfast fixing of thought and a halting of it at the door of the heart.”*

Hesychios the Priest, Section 6



## SACRAMENTS

### Baptism

Thomas Alexis Selianitis, son of Louis Selianitis and Wendy Gil Zambrano Selianitis, was baptized March 6. His sponsor is Tony Selianitis, III

*Na mas zisi! Long life!*

### Funeral

Michael Nicolas, who fell asleep in the Lord March 6, was buried March 16. He is survived by his wife, Eleni, and children Nick, Jennie, Rita, and Tom, and their children.

Sandra Faye Mattos, who fell asleep in the Lord on March 4, was buried March 18. She is survived by Ted Theodosopoulos.

*Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!*

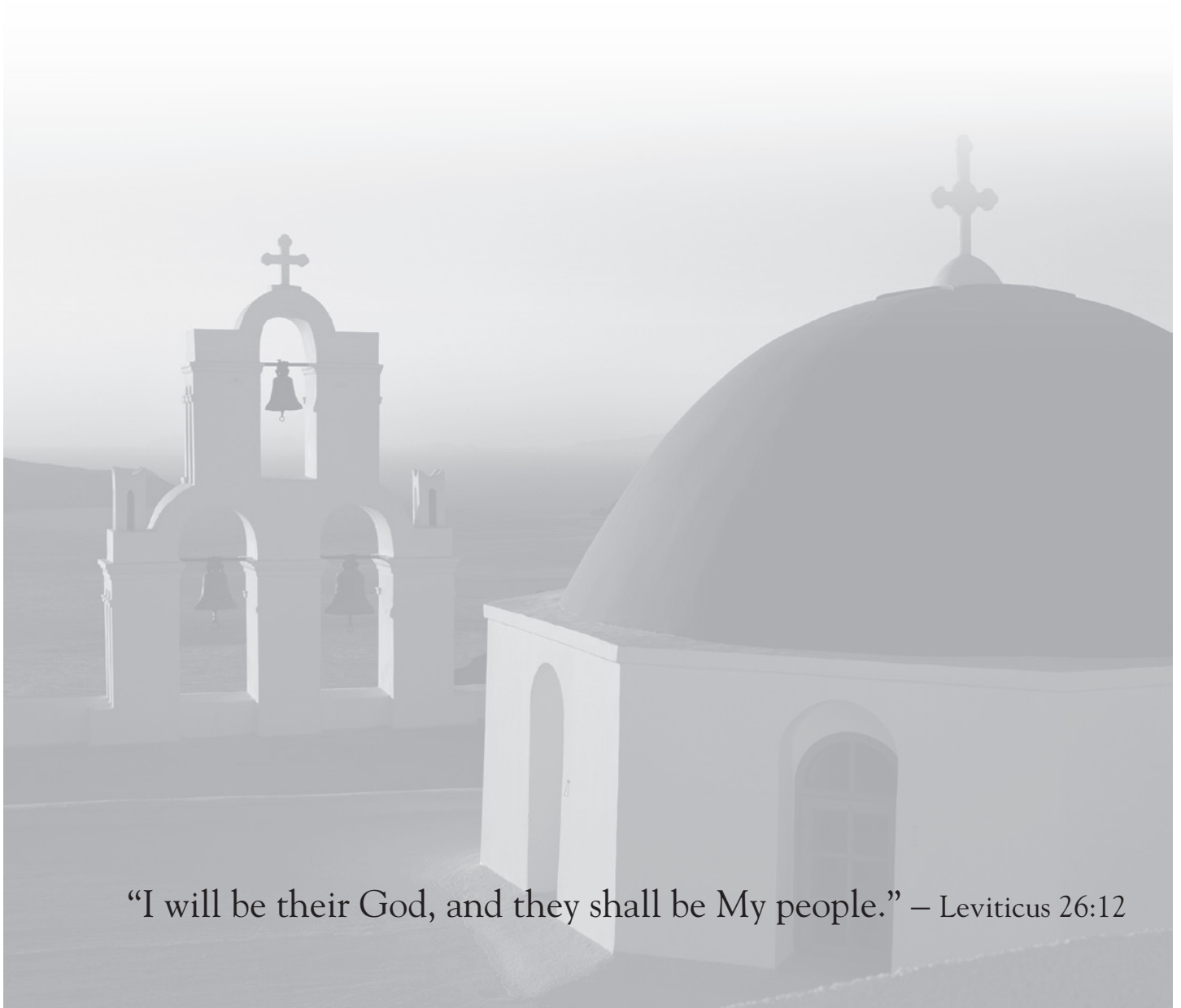


# A P R I L C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Salutations, 7 p.m.	Greek School, 10 am
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am OIKOS lecture: Basil Crow		basketball practice 7 p.m.	Construction Meeting, 10 am  basketball practice 7 p.m.		Salutations, 7 p.m.	Greek School, 10 am
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am		basketball practice 7 p.m.	basketball practice 7 p.m.		Salutations, 7 p.m.	Greek School, 10 am
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Godparent's Sunday		Soup Kitchen, 6:30 p.m.  basketball practice 7 p.m.	Construction Meeting, 10 am  basketball practice 7 p.m.	OYAA Basketball games, 7 p.m., 8 p.m., & 9 p.m.	Presanctified, 6:30 p.m.	St. Lazarus, Liturgy, 10 a.m. followed by Palm-tying Greek School, 10 am
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Palm Sunday, Nymphios service, 7 p.m.	Holy Monday, Nymphios service, 7 p.m.	basketball practice 7 p.m.  Holy Tuesday, Nymphios service, 7 p.m.	Holy Wednesday, Holy Unction, 7 p.m.	Holy Thursday, Liturgy 10 a.m., the 12 Gospels 7 p.m.	Holy Friday, The Great Hours 10 a.m. Descent from the Cross 1 p.m. The Lamentations, 7 p.m.	Holy Saturday, Liturgy 8 a.m., Paschal Vigil 11 a.m. ANASTASIS at Midnight  <hr/> <b>Sunday, May 1,</b> Holy Pascha, Agape Vespers 11 a.m.

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION  
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL  
245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320

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“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” – Leviticus 26:12





# Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Easter Bake 2016

— PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW —

	<u>No. of Orders</u>	<u>Total</u>
Easter Bread @ \$15.00 each	_____	\$ _____
Koulourakia @ \$8.00 per Dozen	_____	\$ _____
Red Colored Eggs @ \$6.00 per Dozen	_____	\$ _____
<b>TOTAL Amount of Order</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ TEL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Your order will be ready for pick up on Friday, April 29, (10:00am to 3:00pm only)  
and Saturday, April 30, (10:00am to 12:00pm only).

Please return completed form to the Cathedral Office or call (415) 864-8000 to place your order. Enclose payment with your order. All orders are prepaid.

**DEADLINE TO PLACE ORDER IS SUNDAY APRIL 23, 2016**

PHILOPTOCHOS



Check Received: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount: \_\_\_\_\_