

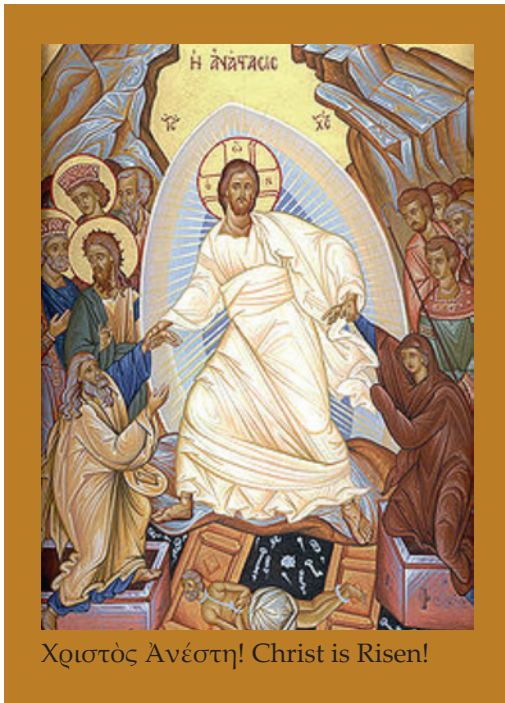


ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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MAY 2016



The façade of the new Cathedral, now that all the windows have been installed. Copper atop the main dome is now nearing completion. The next step is partial stucco, then copper on the ieron dome and, finally, stucco of the entire exterior.

The new Cathedral: taking it to the Next Step



The copper arrives. 10 tons of it!



The copper is unrolled and made into strips for the domes or flashing. The gutters and downspouts are also being fabricated of copper.



Copper being fitted over the ieron dome. The ieron dome will be clad following partial stucco of the area above it.

The Passing of the Man Who Rebuilt the Annunciation

The entire community mourns the loss of Michael Nicholas Vriheas who passed away peacefully on April 4, 2016 at the age of 87. Mike was born in San Francisco on January 25, 1929 to Nicholas and Garifalia Vriheas. At an early age he moved with his family to Greece where he spent much of his childhood. After World War II the family returned to San Francisco. Mike graduated from Balboa High School and attended San Francisco State University before serving his country as part of the 6th Infantry Regiment. Upon an honorable discharge from the Army, Mike received his electrical engineering degree from Heald College.

He married the love of his life Soteria “Loula” Antonopoulos in 1960 and raised four beautiful children. After short stints with Collins Radio Company, Dalmo Victor, and Philco where he worked as an electrical engineer, Mike formed MV Construction in San Francisco, where he built a successful real estate development business over the past 50 years. One of Mike’s proudest achievements was overseeing the reconstruction of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral after the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. We recall those days with nostalgia and admiration. Following the earthquake, the parish relocated to the adjacent Bausch & Lomb Optical Company Building, which it had acquired in 1981, as it pondered rebuilding on the same site or relocating to another site. When it decided, at a Parish Assembly, to build on the same site, and to build the ancillary facilities first, Bishop Anthony of Blessed Memory called two or three individuals from those present, to explore the next steps. One of these was Frank Fotenos, of Blessed Memory. Frank called on Mike. “You can do it, he said.” Mike said, “I’ll call my friend Joe Imbelloni” with whom he was developing housing on Greenwich Street, and the rest is history. Mike took on the day to day supervision of the project and saw it through. He brought his son, Nick, to do the electrical, and the entire project, estimated to cost \$4.3 million, actually came in under budget by \$500,000! Had Mike not heeded the call, Annunciation’s facilities may never have been rebuilt. Mike Vriheas, then, is the man who rebuilt the Annunciation. It is part of Mike’s great legacy.

Mike is survived by his wife Loula and his devoted sister Persefoni Vriheas. He was the loving father of Amy (fiancé Michael) Vriheas, Nick (Vicky) Vriheas, Carrie (Michael) Chittaro, and Tedi (Kurt) Duecker. He will be sadly missed by his four grandchildren Michael and Eleni Vriheas and Dimitrius and Alexander Duecker who adored their Papouli. Mike will also be missed by the countless friends he made throughout his life and through his passions of hunting, a member of the Greek-American Soccer league, and golfing.

Mike was inquisitive and loved how things worked. He was loyal, trustworthy, and had a thirst for life. His devotion to his family and motivation to build a successful business was an inspiration to all he met. Always willing to help he was generous with his time, resources and opinions. He will be profoundly missed by all the lives he touched with his kindness, humor, thoughtfulness and love. And his memory will be treasured by those whose lives he changed, through his faith, devotion and love. Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal memory!



The Great and Holy Council

Already there is much talk about the Holy and Great Council of the Orthodox Church. The Council opens on June 19, 2016, on the island of Crete. People want to know more about the Council and are asking questions, as, is the Great Council an Ecumenical Council?

Ἀναστάσεως ἡμέρα καὶ
λαμπρυνθῶμεν τῇ πανηγύρει
καὶ ἀλλήλους περιπτυξώμεθα.
Εἴπωμεν ἀδελφοὶ καὶ τοῖς
μισοῦσιν ἡμᾶς. Συγχωρήσωμεν
πάντα τῇ Ἀναστάσει, καὶ οὕτω
βοήσωμεν. Χριστὸς ἀνέστη
ἐκ νεκρῶν θανάτῳ θάνατον
πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς
μνήμασι, ζωὴν χαρισάμενος.
(Δοξαστικὸν τοῦ Πάσχα)

For Orthodox Christians, there hasn't been an Ecumenical Council since 787, when the Seventh Ecumenical Council convened in Nicaea for the second time (the first Council at Nicaea was convened in the year 325). This Council (in 787) resolved the problem of iconoclasm, that is, the debate about whether icons may be used for liturgical and devotional purposes. If you've been to an Orthodox Church recently, you know who won that argument! However, the Orthodox believe that it is the whole church that must convene—East and West—in order for a council to be considered ecumenical. In general, Orthodox is reserved about boasting of an ecumenical council, for an ecumenical council is normally recognized retrospectively. So, the Council meeting on Crete this June would not declare itself to be “ecumenical.” That would be something for future councils to decide.

Generally speaking, it would be appropriate and accurate to consider the Holy and Great Council as a continuation of the early ecumenical councils of the first Christian millennium, as well as a continuation of the later “great” or “greater” councils of the second Christian millennium. Around a dozen or so such councils have convened through the centuries following the “great schism” of 1054 in order to resolve issues of doctrinal, canonical or administrative character. Then, there was the council convened under Patriarch Photios (789), which some quarters contend should be considered the “8th Ecumenical Council.” Be this as it may, there is indeed something very unique about this council, to be convened on Crete this June: this is the first time in the history of Christendom that a council of ancient churches that claim apostolic succession has included so many individual and independent (autocephalous, and even national) churches. There are 14 such churches: the Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Patriarchate of Alexandria, the Patriarchate of Antioch, the Patriarchate of Jerusalem, the Church of Russia, the Church of Serbia, the Church of Romania, the Church of Bulgaria, the Church of Georgia, the Church of Cyprus, the Church of Greece, the Church of Poland, the Church of Albania, and the Church of the Czech lands and Slovakia.

The early ecumenical councils of the first millennium assembled five churches, while the later great councils often convened with even fewer churches. By contrast, the Great Council that will convene in Crete this June will assemble the fourteen recognized (or canonical) Orthodox churches from all over the world, enumerated above. That's of major significance.

Now, since the fourteen churches enumerated above are in the “east,” people in English-speaking, mostly western countries, are asking about English translations of the official documents which are being put before the Council. The Synaxis of the world's Orthodox primates, held in Geneva earlier this year (January 21-27, 2016), issued a resolution that English would be officially used during the proceedings of the council and will definitely be one of four official languages for the final message issued at the conclusion of the Great Council on June 26, 2016.

So, why is the Council being held in Crete? Originally, the Holy and Great Council was scheduled to meet at the Church of Hagia Irene, in Constantinople (a “stone's throw” from Hagia

There is an ontological unity between the ascetic experience of Orthodoxy and the Orthodox icon... The entire body of the saint, in every detail, even the hair and the wrinkles, even the garments and all that surround him, is unified and restored to a supreme harmony. It is a visible expression of the victory over the inner division and chaos in man and a victory by man over the division and chaos in humanity and the world.

— Leonid Ouspensky, *Theology of the Icon*.

Sophia, the “Great Church”), which was the site of the Second Ecumenical Council. Hagia Irene served as an imperial church since the fourth century and, unlike other Christian churches in Turkey, was never converted into a mosque. The reason cited that the Orthodox Primates changed the venue of the Holy and Great Council was in order to assist Moscow to attend due to current political tensions between Russia and Turkey, as well as security concerns about recent terrorist attacks in Istanbul.

As noted above, the Holy and Great Council is entirely without precedent in the history of Christianity. Some are afraid of its consequences for the purity of Orthodox doctrine. But others see this as a unique moment in the life and witness of an ancient church, an opportunity for Orthodox theology to speak a prophetic voice of hope and light in a time of uncertainty. As Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew reminded the Orthodox primates gathered in Geneva recently, “this is the moment of Orthodoxy.” In the words of Archbishop Anastasios of Albania: “The great council is not a facsimile of an ecumenical council.” Whether described as an ecumenical council, or simply labeled a great council, the occasion in Crete in June is an extraordinary and exceptional event. To read more, we recommend the 50-page booklet, entitled “Toward the Holy and Great Council: Retrieving a Culture of Conciliarity and Communion” by John Chryssavgis. It may be obtained from the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America's Department of Inter-Orthodox, Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations, frnathanael@goarch.org or 212 774-0226.

Looking for a date to Raise the Cross

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 Alikei, 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." The earlier Hagia Sophia 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 Angelo 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



Waiting

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. Thank you.

Now, for the placement of the cross. Originally, we were told to expect delivery of the crosses on or about April 8. The purpose was to erect the dome cross, temporarily, and to lower it when the copper on the appropriate portion of the upper dome was completed. We also wanted to light the dome during the Paschal Resurrection service (the dome will be lit by six LED lamps). While this may still happen, the sequencing as to the placement of the cross has changed. The crosses will now be delivered and the dome cross installed all in the same day. As this issue of the Herald went to press on April 15, the contractors have not told us when the upper part of the dome will be ready to receive the cross. We will certainly inform you as soon as we learn the exact date and time, via Twitter, E mail, Facebook, and our List Serv. Certainly this will be a media event, as it marks the full "restoration" of the community following the Loma Prieta Earthquake in 1989, which claimed the old Cathedral. It is also significant for San Francisco that, amid all the construction going on in the City, the only church being built is the Annunciation Cathedral, and it is being built as a beacon of faith and hope, in these challenging times.



One of the 135 windows being water-tested



More water testing



Basil Crow delivering his lecture on Byzantine Music on April 3.

OIKOS Lecture Series Continues: Professor Martha Klironomos to speak on May 15

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, sponsor 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, May 15, our speaker will be Professor Martha Klironomos, Ph.D. (Note, this month's talk will take place on the third Sunday, rather than the first Sunday of the month, as customary, owing to the fact that the first Sunday is Holy Pascha and the second Sunday is Mother's Day.) 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*.



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. As part of the celebration, you will enjoy a glamorous gala dinner prepared by a famous Iron Chef and many, many surprises. For more information, please email cathedralgala2016@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, we recall the words of Scripture: "Build me a sanctuary, and I will appear among you." *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἄγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν.* (Exodus 25:8). We also recall the prayer by Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, when he broke ground for the Cathedral on November 6, 1997. He said: "The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified." This is an awesome mission that has been placed on our generation, and we are doing it. We are building a Cathedral worthy of its name and its calling. We are honored to do so. And, we have every reason to celebrate. So, mark November 5, 2016 on your calendars and plan on joining us for our 95th anniversary celebration.

Annunciation Cathedral 95th Anniversary Logo

on white background:



LOGO - 1



LOGO - 2

on black background:



LOGO - 1



LOGO - 2

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!

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 Last Month / This Month	To Go to meet LY
Number of Pledges	303	322	301	351	241	110
Pledged Dollars	\$253,844	\$251,670	\$234,092	\$299,637	\$222,585	77,052
Outstanding Balances 2016					\$117,761	
Average Pledge	\$838.00	\$782.00	\$778.00	\$854.00	\$924.00	
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above					86 / 94	
Number of pledges between 601 and 999					21 / 21	
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below					109 / 124	
Number of individual 2015 pledges that have not pledged for 2016					168	

A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

These graphics show that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2015 was the highest in recent history and 2016 continues this trend. In 2015, a total of 351 pledges came in totaling nearly \$300,000. 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 \$924.00, 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. So, thank you for your continued support of the Cathedral and its ministries.



2016 is the Cathedral's Year to Host the IOCC Banquet: Banquet to be held Sunday, November 13

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. The IOCC event is scheduled for Sunday, November 13, at the Cathedral. In response to the question and the invitation expressed in the March and April Herald, i.e. would you like to serve as a member of the organizing committee of the IOCC banquet at the Cathedral this November, 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 to begin planning. 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



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.

It is the day of Resurrection: let us be glorious in splendor for the festival, and let us embrace one another. Let us speak also, brothers and sisters, to those that hate us and, in the Resurrection, let us forgive all things. And, so, let us cry: Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life.

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 aeventis3@comcast.net.

It may be May, 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, May 10, 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, or Deno, deno-com@hotmail.com.

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. He will put you in touch to those who've taken the lead and are coordinating this important ministry. Thank you.



Members of our GOYA assisting with serving at a recent Soup Kitchen.

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.

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. Please keep Community Link and our home-bound brothers and sisters in your prayers!



Can you identify this church?

No, it's not the Annunciation Cathedral currently being reconstructed. Hint: it was built about 1500 years earlier.

Community Profiles: Androniki Ioannidou (Johns)

The following was forwarded to us by her son, John Johns, a life member of the Annunciation Cathedral: My mother, Androniki Ioannidou (Johns) was born in Kasandria (Valta) Kasandra in Halkidiki (Macedonia) Greece. As a new bride, she came to America in 1927, through Ellis Island, and settled in San Francisco. It was a difficult time in America during the depression years. She was educated as a credited teacher and spoke beautiful Greek (especially *katharevousa*) and taught a few years in Greece, but had no knowledge of English. Little did she know that she would be coming to the United States. Later on, she became an American citizen as a top student in English. My father, Anastasios (Ernest) had many odd jobs before working at a small grocery store on the corner of Harrison and 10th St., and made a small living, working long hours seven days a week. We lived upstairs in a small flat, which was known as a Greek Town South of Market, where many Greek immigrants lived. It was a blue collar neighborhood with many factories nearby.

My mother raised three children: Constance (Connie), Arthur (Art) and John. At home, we spoke Greek, like most Greek American families, and were taught good home values and religion. In addition to being a housewife, Androniki helped my father in the grocery store, which later was called "Ernest Johns and Sons. Holy Trinity Orthodox Church was a few blocks away, where we attended church on Sundays. She was asked to teach Greek in the afternoon to Greek American students. Among them were the George Christopher sisters and others. Constance and I attended school at St. Joseph's Catholic Church a block away, in our early childhood. My parents met many fine Greeks and other Americans of different nationalities in our neighborhood, where they shared camaraderie. Among them were Arsenis and Anna Tamaras, George and Maria Babbes (who later became my Godparents), and Demetrios and Stamata Vamenos. As the Greek colony grew,

a few parishioners eventually formed the St. Sophia Cathedral Church on Hayes Street which, in time, became the United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco, The Annunciation. With much difficulty, they took out a mortgage to purchase a converted Vaudeville theater at 245 Valencia Street.

At that time, we were fortunate to have a young, capable, energetic and charismatic priest named Vasilios Lokis, an archimandrite. He was well liked but strict. My parents and other Greeks eventually moved out of the Greek Town to other areas of San Francisco. Father Lokis saw a need to build classrooms in the back of the church, because there were many Greek American children coming to church. In addition, the San Francisco Unified School District permitted us use of classrooms in several schools in the afternoon, from 4 to 6 p.m., to accommodate all who wanted to learn Greek. Among them were E.R. Taylor, Commodore Sloat, and Bayview. After several years at Holy Trinity, and a good reputation as a teacher, my mother, Androniki, was asked to teach Greek, together with other ladies who had some knowledge of Greek, at the Annunciation. Androniki also taught Sunday School. She would help my father in the store in the morning, take care of us, and use city transportation in the afternoon so that she would be at the school in time to teach. Because city transportation was bad during the war years, she would come home late in the evening. Mr. Christos Makreyiannis, a well-educated and capable man, was a teacher, principal, cantor, and secretary-treasurer, was hired, and was an asset to the Annunciation Cathedral community. At the Annunciation, my mother served under Fathers Lokis, Finfinis, Pantelakos and other, interim, priests. In all honesty and modesty, and with pride, Androniki Ioannidou, my mother was, above all, a good mother, also an excellent, capable, dedicated, strict, but likeable teacher, who taught students in both times individually, because she wanted them to learn. Ask any one of them who is still living, and they will mention Mrs. Ioannidou as their teacher. She taught Greek School until 1954, and passed away in 1980 in San Francisco.

First, [our] prayers are marked by a strong sense of God's holiness and mystery, by a spirit of reverence and wonder... Secondly, Orthodox worship is deeply Trinitarian: the threefold invocation, 'Father, Son and Holy Spirit,' sums up the very essence of our prayer... Third, all prayer is communal: prayer is our entry to the communion of saints... Fourthly, in prayer we do not think only in vertical terms about the Church in glory and the communion of saints, but we also think horizontally about our involvement with the rest of humankind.

– Metropolitan Kallistos Ware

Parish Council Names Committees: How about getting Involved

As noted in last month's Herald, the Parish Council recently 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.

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

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Young Adults gather, in March and, again, in April

On the evening of March 25th, young adults gathered to celebrate the Great Vespers on the occasion of the Apodosis (that is, the leave taking) of the Feast, and the intonation of the second Stasis of the Akathist. Immediately following, they gathered in the conference room for refreshments and a meal cooked by the young adults themselves. The young adults gathered again on April 22 for the Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts and, afterwards, for a meal at Nostra, directly across the street from the Cathedral. One of the great rewards of these gatherings is face-to-face "networking." Sure, you can meet on Facebook, you can exchange thoughts and photos. But you can't break bread together, just as you can pray at home or in your car, on your way to work, but you cannot receive the Body and Blood of Christ—you cannot have the full expression of Community, except when you gather, in person, and encounter one another face to face. The Cathedral endeavors to grow this ministry, as we welcome more and more young adults to the area, who come to work and live and meet one another in this most vibrant of cities.



So, how do you like San Francisco?



When's the next gathering?



Saturday, May 7, 2016

*The Annunciation Cathedral's
Ladies Philoptochos invites you to our
57th Annual Mother's Day Luncheon
and Fashion Show*

*"Breakfast at Tiffany's"
honoring Mothers of the Year
Zetta Ambus & Emilia Sarikakis*

*"Channel your inner Holly Golightly
and wear your favorite little black dress and pearls"*

*Cathedral of the Annunciation 245 Valencia St., San Francisco, California
12:00 Cocktail Reception ~ 12:30 Lunch
Donation: Adults \$55.00 ~ Children \$25.00*

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 12 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. SEATING IS LIMITED.

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

YOUTH NEWS

GOYA News

A meeting of the parents of GOYA age children (13 to 18 years old) took place recently, following the April 19 Soup Kitchen, at which our young people helped serve. They also met with Matia Kostakis, who has worked with young people in her home parish and also helped coach our girls basketball team this year. We thank our parents for making the effort to bring their children, and for helping us articulate programmatic needs for GOYA. Moving forward, we will list the newly elected officers of GOYA, in next month's Herald, as well as the events which GOYA is planning to hold for the Cathedral chapter for the remainder of the year, and also Bay Area events in which it will participate. 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

Greek Dance resumes May 15

The Annunciation Cathedral is gearing up for another exciting year! The 2016-17 Greek folk dance season kicks off after church on Sunday, May 15th. The directors will begin with a brief overview of the program followed by the first practice following FDF, the Great Lent, and Pascha. The Cathedral's award winning dance program consists of experienced and dedicated directors, talented dancers, and supportive families and community. All groups are currently open to new dancers for a limited time. Our program encompasses everyone from four years old to young adult. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com for more information.

To Mellon: Pre-K-K (must be at least 4 years old in Fall 2016)

Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

To Mellon 2: 1st-3rd grade in Fall 2016

Directed by Katerina Sarikakis and Eleni Taptelis

Thisavri: 4th-6th grade in Fall 2016

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 7th -11th grade in Fall 2016

Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Megalopolis: 18 and up

Directed by Michael and Nicole Garibaldi



Sunday School News

Good Friday commemorates the moments leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, as well as His death on the Cross. In observation of Good Friday, April 29th, the Sunday School will hold its traditional TGI Pascha Program from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The schedule is below:

- 10:00 a.m. Registration and Opening Prayer
- 10:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Holy Week Crafts and Lessons
- 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Lentil Luncheon
- 1:00 p.m. Church Service - Vespers of Apokathilosis (Christ's body being taken down from the Cross)

If you are interested in signing your child up for this event, please contact Chrisoula Pezo at: Christine.Pezo@oracle.com by April 24th

The Sunday School calendar for May and June is as follows:

May 1	Holy Pascha – Easter Sunday – No Sunday School
May 8	Mother's Day – Class Project
May 15	Regular Classes
May 22	Last Sunday School Music Lesson – Conference Room
May 29	Memorial Holiday – No Sunday School
June 5	Last Day of Sunday School - Graduation - Program

'Like'
Annunciation
Cathedral Sunday
School!



Cathedral offers Scholarships

For 2016, the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of the Annunciation will provide six (6) scholarships, as follows:

1. The Andreas & Nikki Coundouris Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
2. The John N. Pappas Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
3. The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
4. The S. Lee Vavuris Legal Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000.00
5. The Dr. Anthony P. Bagatelos Scholarship, in the amount of 75% of interest earned, and
6. Through the Cathedral Sunday School, the Efrosine and Andrew Vellis Scholarship, in the amount of \$500.00.

The specific requirements concerning eligibility may be found in the instructions which accompany the application. To request an application, please call the Cathedral office, at 415 864-8000 or e mail: office@annunciation.org. Completed applications must be returned by May 24, 2016.

Greek School News

Our Greek school celebrated March 25th on Saturday, March 19th at the Annunciation Cathedral with Father Stephen, parents and friends in attendance. It was a beautiful and touching celebration. We are so proud of all of the students, who recited their Greek poems and sang their songs so beautifully. Thank you to all the Greek school teachers who worked so hard to prepare their students. On behalf of our school, we would like to wish everyone *kali Anastasi*. Greek school will be closed on Holy Saturday, April 30 (and also May 28-Memorial Day weekend). The last day of the 2015-2016 school year is Saturday, June 11. If you have any questions about our school or is interested in registering your child/ children, please email Anthi Janssens at anthigj@gmail.com.

Σε γνωρίζω από την κόψη...

Our prayers are profoundly biblical, filled with phrases and images taken directly from Scripture. Orthodox Christians see themselves as members of a Church that is founded on the Bible. In the words of a great Russian Orthodox theologian of the 19th century, Metropolitan Philaret of Moscow, 'The only pure and all-sufficient source of the doctrines of the faith is the revealed word of God.'

– Metropolitan Kallistos Ware



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.

Lenis nis alitatem volupta tibus, ut et, sitis ma quatur, officist, utempor epelictibus, comnis sed ut andit doluptat latiam, odi reperaeratum ipis rem dit exped maximusda sam natque laboriti ne ipsam, non re velenihil etur?

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:

\$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.

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

For questions, please contact Johanna Duterte, Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org.



Students of our Greek School sing the Greek National Anthem at this year's March 25th program.



Students of our Greek School recite poems at this year's March 25th program.

Serving in the Altar

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. 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 May is as follows:

- May 8 - Group 1 (Mother's Day_
- May 15 - Group 2 (Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing women)
- May 22 - Group 3 (Sunday of the Paralytic)
- May 29 - Group 4 (Sunday of the Samaritan Woman)

Note: As Holy Pascha falls on May 1 this year, and there is no Divine Liturgy, all altar boys are welcome to serve at the Agape Vespers, which will be celebrated at 11 a.m.

Our altar groups are as follow:

Group 1- Stelios Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis, Justin Perez (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)

SACRAMENTS

Chrismations

Patricia (Panagiota) Mathios, daughter of Robert Emmett McNulty and Mary Elizabeth Mulhern, and wife of Anthony Mathios, was received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation on April 10. Her sponsors are Danny (Demosthenes) and Maria Kaufman.

Zachary Hart Weiner, son of Peter Hart Weiner and Jeanne Collette Werner, husband of Dr. Eleni Lingas and father of Konstantinos, was received into the Orthodox Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation on April 17. His sponsor is Athena Kontonis.

Na mas zisoun! Long Life!

Funeral

Emily Bagatelos, who fell asleep in the Lord on April 11, was buried on April 15. She is survived by her children, Peter, Michael and Karen Bagatelos, grandchildren, Anthony and Catherine, great-grandchild Tino, brother Peter, many other relatives and friends. Emily was a lifetime member and past President of the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Society, Cathedral Mother of the Year, a Giants and Warriors Fan.

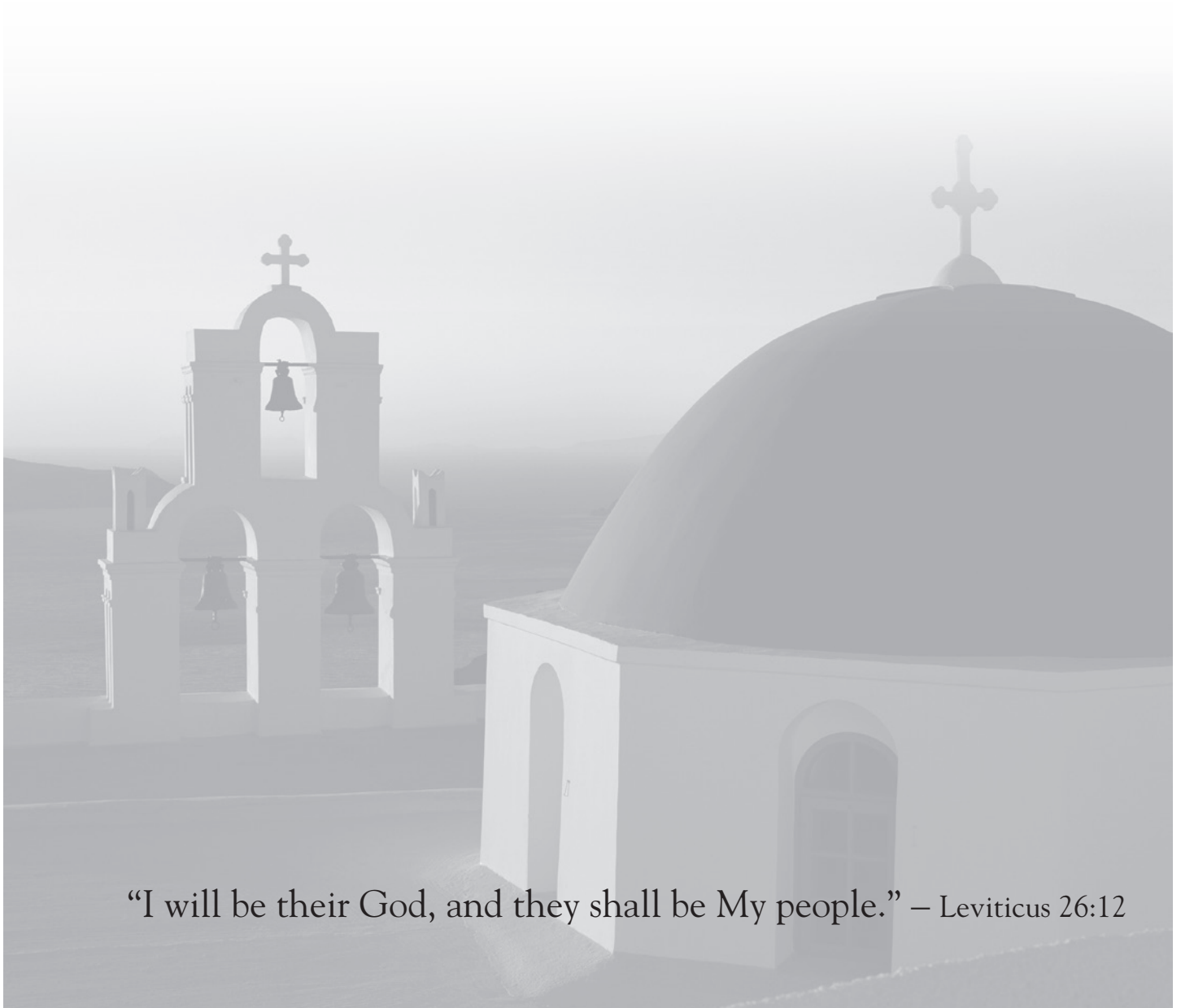
Aionia I Mnimi! (Eternal Memory!)

M A Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
(Holy Pascha), Agape Vespers, 11 a.m.		basketball practice 7 p.m.	Construction Meeting, 10 am basketball practice 7 p.m			Greek School, 10 am Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show, 12 noon.
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am		basketball practice 7 p.m.	basketball practice 7 p.m.	OYAA Adult Playoffs		Greek School, 10 am
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am OIKOS Lecture, Prof. Martha Klironomos, 12:30 p.m. OYAA Championships, 2 p.m.		Soup Kitchen, 7:00 p.m. basketball practice 7 p.m.	Construction Meeting, 10 am basketball practice 7 p.m.			Greek School, 10 am
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Parish Council, 12:30 p.m.		basketball practice 7 p.m.	basketball practice 7 p.m.			
29	30	31				
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Philoptochos, 12: 30 p.m.		basketball practice 7 p.m.				

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” – Leviticus 26:12