



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

AUGUST 2016

The Cross goes up: a historic day for San Francisco!

Saturday, May 21st was a historic day, for the Annunciation Cathedral Community, for the Metropolis of San Francisco, for San Francisco, the Bay Area and, indeed, the world. For, on that day, God brought it about that the cross should go up on the Cathedral, signaling God's love and sacrifice, signaling hope.

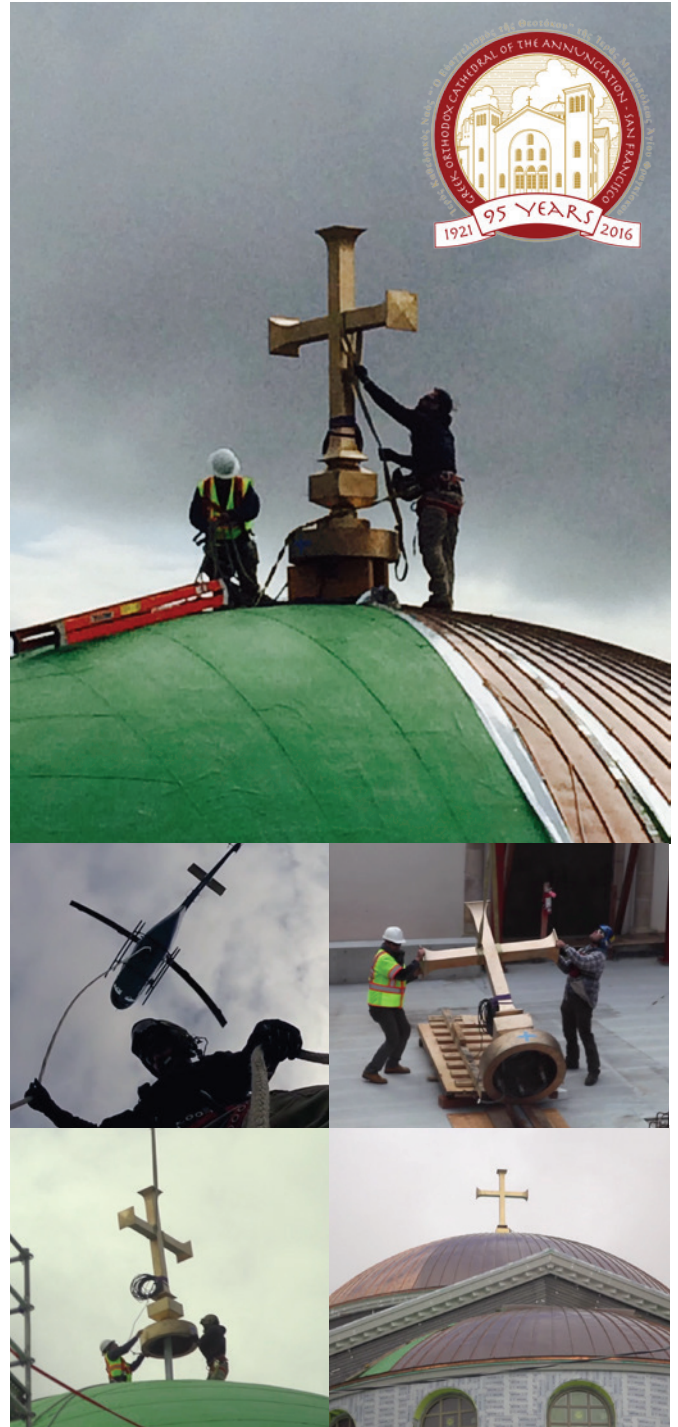
The larger cross, measuring nine feet high and weighing 470 pounds, was hoisted up by helicopter at 8:20 a.m. The reason for its installation on a Saturday morning was because traffic at that time is at a minimum, and the reason for its installation by helicopter was because this is the easiest, if challenging, and less expensive, but safest, way to do so. Meanwhile, Felipe, from Barker O'Donoghue (the company that installed the cross) was at the top of the dome, along with a staff member from the helicopter company. He guided the cross so that it was plumb and in the correct position, from the east, where the sun rises, to the west, where it sets. Later, workers guided the electrical wires through the dome (the cross is lit at night) and, when all the copper was laid, secured the cross to the base. The smaller of the two crosses, measuring four feet and weighing just 200 pounds, was carried up to the roof by the Barker O'Donoghue team and positioned over the entrance to the Cathedral, above the narthex. Its arms are, likewise, stretched north and south, and the cross itself faces east and west.

As noted in previous editions of the *Herald*, the crosses are adapted from the Theodosian cross found on the columns and other artifacts of the Great Church of Hagia Sophia, which built in the year 415. An earlier church, built in the first part of the fourth century, was destroyed by fire and the later, sixth century church, built by Justinian, is still standing. The crosses of the present church, known as "Justinian crosses," can be described as "elongated, flared, etc." The Theodosian crosses, meanwhile, are more restrained. The present Cathedral incorporates a number of elements from the earlier church, such as the façade, which reminds us of the old Annunciation Cathedral. It also incorporates a number of elements from the Church of Hagia Irene, which is near Hagia Sophia—elements such as the central dome and the stepped down vaulting.

The Cathedral's crosses were cast of solid bronze by a foundry in nearby Alameda.

The May 21st date was of great significance, because it is the Feast Day of Saints Constantine and Helen. The Emperor Constantine,

see next page



from front page

the first Christian Emperor, is known, among other things, for having seen the cross midday in the sky, along with the writing EN TOUTO NIKA (By this, you will conquer). Constantine had the cross placed on his army's standards, and vanquished Maxentius in the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, which spans the Tiber River, not far from Rome, in the year 312. Immediately following, he enacted the Treaty of Milan, which ended the persecution against Christians. Constantine himself was baptized a Christian upon his deathbed. Meanwhile, he convened the First Ecumenical Council in the City of Nicaea (not far from Byzantium), in 325, and, in 330, moved the capital of the Roman Empire from Rome to Byzantium, which he named "New Rome." Immediately, this city became known as Constantine's City, or Constantinople. His mother, Helen, meanwhile, a devout Christian, found the Cross upon which our Lord was crucified, when she conducted an archeological tour of the Holy Land and built several churches over sacred places, such as Golgotha and the Holy Sepulchre, in Jerusalem, and the place of the Nativity, in Bethlehem.

The May 21 installation of the cross was witnessed by parishioners and passersby, who assembled across the street from the Cathedral, as well as by the media, who reported its significance: in the greatest building boom in San Francisco since the 1906 Earthquake, a church rises, signaling faith and hope in a time of change and growth. May 21 will remain a defining moment in the life of the community, the Metropolis, San Francisco and the Bay Area, for generations to come!



On July 15, Bishop Maxim visited the Cathedral and expressed his amazement, while offering his best wishes and blessings for completion of this magnificent house of worship, to the glory of God. His Grace is Bishop of the Western Diocese of the Serbian Orthodox Church in North and South America, and is headquartered in Alhambra, CA

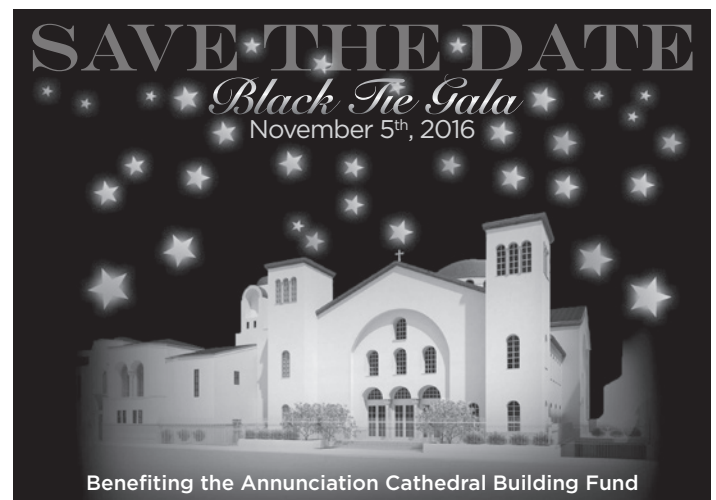
OIKOS Lecture Series Continues: Professor Klironomos, Professor Steven Harris, Ph. D. to speak

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, sponsors 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.

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

Our talk by Professor Martha Klironomos, which was scheduled for Sunday, May 15, is being rescheduled for Sunday, September 11, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, during the coffee hour. She will speak on the Bloomsbury Group and how their travels to Greece and Italy inspired the integration of Byzantine motifs into their art. Professor Martha Klironomos has served as Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at S.F. State University. She has been teaching courses in Modern Greek language and literature and Comparative and English literature, at S.F. State University, since 1996.

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 cathedrinalgala2016@gmail.com.

Meanwhile, we recall the words of Scripture: “Build me a sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” ἰ ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, 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.

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!



Quotes:

Mary the Mother of God is the first volume in the series *Sermons by Saint Gregory Palamas*, the purpose of which is to bring the life and teaching of this remarkable 14th century saint (1296-1359) to a wider readership, to the layperson interested in the rich Biblical tradition of the Church Fathers.

Arranged thematically, the work consists of six sermons devoted to the Mother of God, including Homily 37, which St. Gregory preached on the Dormition. We reprint excerpts of this sermon in this edition of the *Herald*.

A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

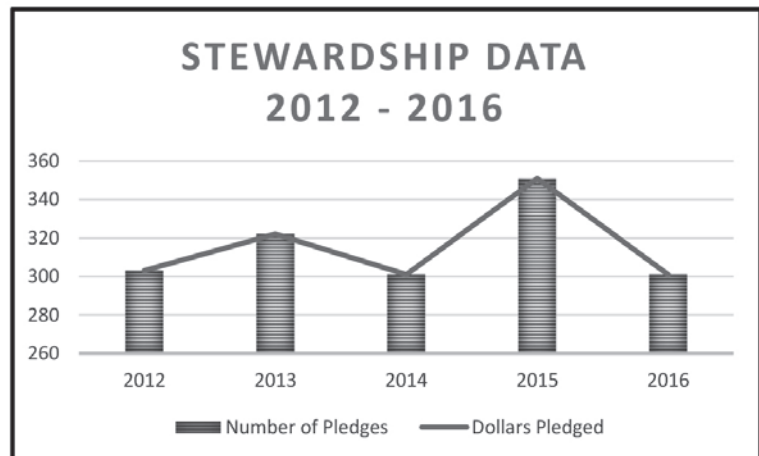
We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2015 was the highest in recent history and 2016 continues this trend. In 2015, a total of 351 pledges came in totaling nearly \$300,000. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the 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 \$888.00, 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.

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016 Last Month / This Month
Number of Pledges	303	322	301	351	301	286 / 301
Pledged Dollars	\$253,844	\$251,670	\$234,092	\$299,637	267,201	243,285 / 267,201
Outstanding Balances 2016					85,061	89,663 / 85,061
Average Pledge	\$838.00	\$782.00	\$778.00	\$854.00	888	894 / 888
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above					104	100 / 104
Number of pledges between 601 and 999					28	27 / 28
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below					170	159 / 170
Number of individual 2015 pledges that have not pledged for 2016						111 / 101

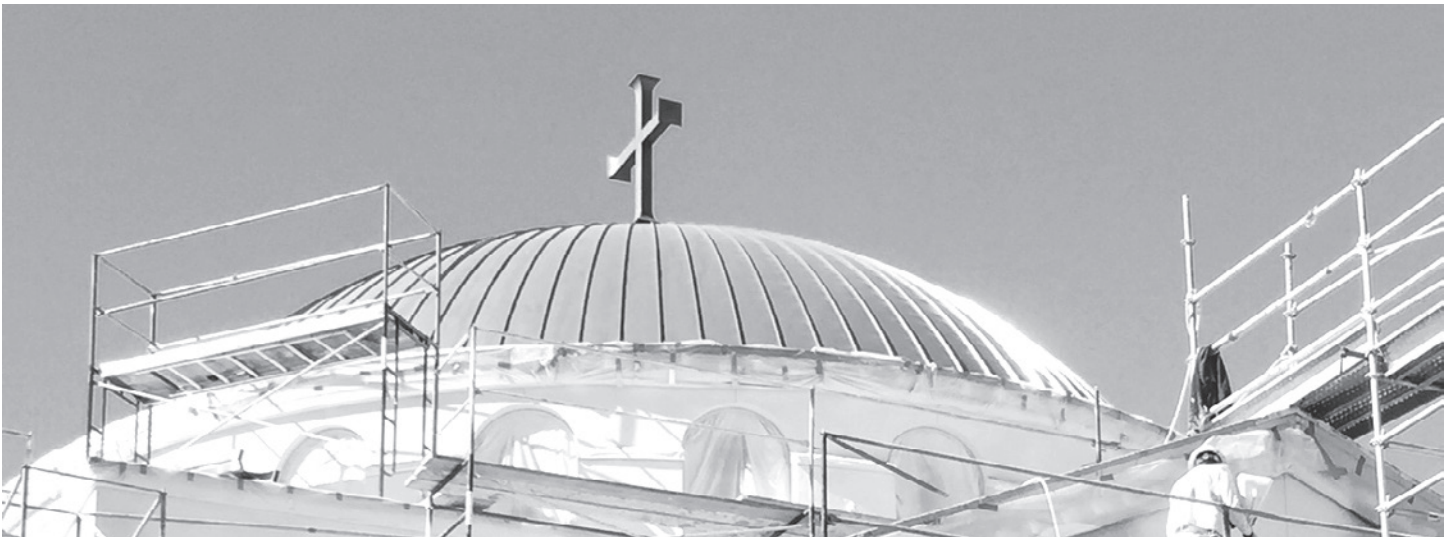
Unique 2016 Pledges (no pledge 2012 - 2015):

Bizani, Alexandra E.
Brattis, Denise
Calligeros, Tessie
Courcoumelis, C. & Elaine
Destein, Patricia
Dreibelbis, Bessie
Giannis, Demetrios & Rose
Biannis, Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios
Morales, Robert
Nicolas, Nick & Maryanne
Nuris, Manoli
Ocampo, Melisa
Orologas, Maria
Pano, James
Papadopulos, Stefanos
Pappas, Stephanie & Robert Michael Li
Rakos, Jim & Kelly
Roumeliotes, Valerie
Rudha, Lorena
Selianitis Jr. III, Tony
Selimis, Nick
Stefanitsis, Dennis & Amy
Tameresis, Dorothy
Taptelis, Tom & Helen
Tasso, James
Vafiadis, Nikolas S.
Weldexghi, Zeray
Zarikos, Panagiotis & Angie



Report:

Need 50 pledges to meet LY - 6 months to go-good
 Need 32,436 in pledges to meet LY - can do
 Good decrease in outstanding balances YTD
Need to focus on outstanding balances next 6 months
 2nd Quarter reminders to go out soon
 Letter was sent to 2015 but not 2016 pledgers
 15 pledges came in- 11 @ 600 dollar amount vs 4 @ 1000



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

Gift Giving to the Capital Campaign

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

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

Parking During Construction

Parking for up to 70 cars is available in the lot behind the Cathedral, at 334 14th Street and on the street. Stewards of the Cathedral are charged only \$5 to park, by showing their 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.



Keep thinking 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 gain, 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!) Meetings of the committee chairs have been ongoing, and very productive. Please consider getting involved, since the Festival is only as successful as the volunteers who work to make it possible (and our Festivals have been simply fabulous!). For more information, please contact Grace, gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com, or Deno, denocom@hotmail.com. Meanwhile, please have a look at the following cooking schedule. We invite you to come down and lend us a hand, as we prepare our award-winning dishes which will be served at this year's festival. Efharisto!

It was in 1334, while on Mount Athos, in his third year at the hermitage of Saint Sabas, which belongs to the Great Lavra, that Palamas experienced a vision in which he was encouraged to share the wisdom bestowed upon him from on high. It seemed that he was carrying a vessel overflowing with milk, which subsequently turned into the finest of wines. The wine emitted such a strong fragrance that it brought great joy to his soul. A youth appeared and rebuked him for not sharing the wine with others and for allowing it to go to waste, for this wine, as he explained, was inexhaustible. The angel then warned Gregory, reminding him of the parable of the talents. As he later related to his friend and disciple Dorotheus, Palamas understood this vision to mean that the time would come when he would be called upon to transfer his teaching from the simple plane of the ethical (the milk) to the higher plane of the dogmatic word (the wine), which leads heavenward. Thus at the age of about 38, Gregory began to write his Encomium for Saint Peter the Athonite, and, at about the same time, he also began to compose his homilies on the Theotokos. (Adapted from the foreword in the aforementioned volume, edited by Christopher Veniamin.)

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FESTIVAL 2016 COOKING SCHEDULE (Please note: Cooking schedule subject to change. Volunteers are asked to check with their chairpeople to confirm the dates and times.)

KOULOURAKIA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: PHILOPTOCHOS

BAKLAVA

FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: PHILOPTOCHOS

SPANAKOPITA

THURSDAY, AUGUST 18; FRIDAY, AUGUST 19; SAT. 8/20
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M. CHAIRPERSON: ROSE SOGOTIS

TIROPITES

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: TESSIE CALLIGEROS

KOURAMBIEDES

THURSDAY, AUGUST 25; FRIDAY, AUGUST 26
9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: MARY CHICOS

GALATOBOUREKO

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: PHILOPTOCHOS

BELL PEPPERS

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6; WEDNESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 7, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: TED LEVENTIS

SYRUP PREPARATION

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: PHILOPTOCHOS

BAKLAVA BAKING

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON: PHILOPTOCHOS

RIZOGALO

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2016 • 9:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.
CHAIRPERSON, ROSE SOGOTIS

PLEASE NOTE:

Pastistio and Moussaka will be outsourced; Loukoumades, salata, lamb, gyros, and some other items will be prepared during the course of the festival.

Welcoming New Festival Committee Members

Festival planning time is here again and we are busy into planning. We would like to have another successful Festival and with your help we can do it. Please join us on Monday August 8 at 7:00pm in the second floor conference room. Here is a list of areas we can use your help; please let us know what committee you would like to be a part of. If you have any questions you can contact this years Festival Co-Chairs Deno Konstantinidis at: denocom@hotmail.com or Grace Koutoulas at: gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com

Frappe
Gyros
Kitchen
Lamb
Loukoumades
Raffle
Set-Up Crew/Break-Down Crew
Souvenir Book

Here's the scoop!

"Sundae on Sunday" August 28th

Hosted by Festival Committee to welcome Volunteer Sign-ups.
(All you need is Love and an Ice Cream Sundae)

More on the Food Festival, September 16-18

The annual food festival, and the pride and joy of the Annunciation Cathedral, will soon be here. It is one of the oldest and prestigious Food Festivals in the Bay Area. It attracts visitors from the neighborhood and other parishes as well as visiting travelers. Last year, we even had two Giants' players attend. They located our festival via the internet. In addition, it is our major fundraiser which helps with the many ministries our Cathedral is so blessed in offering.

We urge all parishioners to please try to volunteer your time before the festival preparing items to be served and during the festival. The cooking schedule is attached to this Herald. Our guests are ready for the wonderful food and pastries we offer, in addition, to the entertainment and dancing.

Please get involved! There are several areas of the festival that need chairs. Please contact Grace Koutoulas gmkoutoulas@yahoo.com or Deno Konstantinidis at denocom@hotmail.com to offer your services.

The only way we can have a successful festival is for each and everyone of us to participate in this annual event. Learn more about how you can get involved on August 28, during our "Sundae on Sunday" event.

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 ort.hodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com.

Street Closure Sunday, August 21

San Francisco's street closure program involves the closing of several streets periodically during the year. Valencia Street will next be closed to automobile traffic on Sunday, August 21, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. You will still be able to access the church by driving down 14th Street and parking in the lot at 14th Street, between Valencia and Mission Streets. Those vehicles which are carrying individuals requiring handicap access will be permitted to turn onto Valencia Street for drop-off purposes only. When our parking structure has been completed (early in 2017), all vehicles will be permitted to turn left onto Valencia Street. The personnel in charge of the street closure program have been most cooperative with us, and we thank them. Should there be any glitches, we ask you to let us know immediately. The bottom line is: 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 Valencia Street, twice annually, although we continue to point out to the organizers that the section of Valencia Street between 14th Street and Duboce is underutilized and thought should be given to exempting this portion of the street, as was the case when the program was first introduced.

Community Link Continues Ministering to Those in Need

Community Link, going on its 10th 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! Meanwhile, the Cathedral takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude to Pauline Oetzel for heading Community Link since its inception. Under her leadership, Community Link has "linked" the church community with our home-bound parishioners, offering hope and the message of God's love. We urge more parishioners to get involved with Community Link, as we plan for its future in the service of our fellow parishioners.



Soup Kitchen: thank you for volunteering!

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.

Hall Management Committee Meets

The Hall Management committee met for the first time since we paused hall rentals while we complete the construction of our Cathedral. The committee enthusiastically agreed that our beautiful hall is an asset that we want to ensure that we make the most of first and foremost for the members of the church and our families but then also for our church affiliated organizations and organizations that our members are active in. Beyond that we also agreed that we have a valuable location that is becoming even more valuable as the Mission becomes a more central part of San Francisco living. We have dusted off some good work done a few years ago and have defined a plan to update our policies and position the church to more actively rent the facilities over the coming months. We believe we can contribute considerably to the operating budget of the community if we do this right.

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.

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YOUTH NEWS

Dimitri (James) Kontonis Awarded Scholarship

On Sunday, June 5, the Cathedral awarded Dimitri (James) Kontonis the 2016 Andreas and Niki Coundouris Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,000., in support of his college education. Dimitri has been graduated from Mills High School in Millbrae and, in the fall, will be attending Saint Mary's College, planning for a career in politics. Dimitri has been team captain for Varsity Basketball and for Varsity Water Polo. He is also Captain of our Team I Acolytes. We congratulate him and wish him well in his educational pursuits. Axios!



"If 'precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints' (Ps. 116:15), and 'the memory of the just is praised' (Prov. 10:7), how much more fitting is it for us to celebrate with highest honors the memory of the ever-virgin Mother of God, the Holy of Holies, through whom the saints receive their hallowing? That is exactly what we are doing today by commemorating her holy dormition and passing away, through which, having been made a little lower than the angels (cf. Ps. 8:5), she rose incomparably higher than the angels, archangels, and all the heavenly powers above them, because of her nearness to the God of all (cf. Rom. 9:5) and the marvels written of old which were accomplished in her." (On the Dormition)

“Since anything that overshadows something else naturally gives it its own form and character, what came to pass in the Virgin’s womb was not just union but the formation, out of both the power of the Most High and her all-holy virgin womb, of the incarnate Word of God...As a result of this, her death, too, was life-giving and led to heavenly, immortal life, and its day of remembrance is a joyful holiday and worldwide festival.” (On the Dormition)

“It was right, therefore, that the body which brought forth the Son should be glorified with Him in divine glory, and that the Ark of Christ’s holiness should arise with Him Who rose on third day, as the Prophet sang” (cf. Ps. 132:8). (On the Dormition)”

GOYA News

Making Friends: Shown in the photos are campers from Annunciation who attended the first session of the Metropolis summer camp at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center, Dunlap. Looks like they had a great time.



Dance Group News

Greek Dance resumes August 21

The Annunciation Cathedral is gearing up for another exciting year! The 2016-17 Greek folk dance season kicked off its new season Sunday, May 15th and then paused in July and part of August. It will resume in full force on Sunday, August 21 and continue through FDF, February of 2017. We’ve had surging enrollment and interest in the program and we especially welcome dancers and parents new to our program.

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

Sunday School will resume Sunday, September 25 (one week after the festival), beginning at 10:30 a.m. We look forward to welcoming



our returning Sunday School students and also to welcoming new students. We will be holding a meeting of the Sunday School teachers early on in the season, as we endeavor to grow our Sunday School. Kudos to Christine Pezo and a dedicated staff, who oversee this religious education program. Due to their dedication, our young people are growing in Christ, as they learn about the history and teachings of our Orthodox Faith.

Greek School News

Greek School will resume Saturday, September 24th (the week after the Greek food festival at Annunciation Cathedral), beginning 10 a.m. Meanwhile, we hope to see you all at the festival as the Greek School program gets back into the swing of things. At the same time, we’re putting it out there that we are in need of two more teachers. If you are interested in teaching or if, as a parent, you would like to enroll your child(ren) in the program, please email the director, Anthi Janssens, at anthigi@gmail.com or call, at 415 254-5458.

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!



Acolyte Profile

We are proud of all our altar boys (and all of our altar girls, known as Myrrhbearers). However, two boys stand out because they are Liturgy virtually every Sunday.

Yonas and Nathan have been faithfully serving as Acolytes for the last five plus years. On many Sundays, they are the only two Acolytes serving. In addition to being devoted to the Church, the young men are also good students. Yonas is looking forward to a career in medicine, while Nathan is pleased to say social studies is his favorite subject.

Our altar schedule for August is as follows:

August 7 – Group 2
August 14 – Group 3
August 21 – Group 4
August 28 – Group 1

Meanwhile, we could use altar boys on Saturday, August 6 (Feast of the Transfiguration) and on Monday, August 15 (Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos). The Divine Liturgy both days will begin at 10 a.m. and will be preceded by Orthros, at 9 a.m.

Our altar groups are as follow:

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

Baptisms

Xavier Xenophon, son of Xenophon and Monica (Baltazar) Giannis, was baptized June 4. His Sponsors are Maria Moustakis and Michael Moustakis.

Na Mas Zisi! Long Life!

Chrismations

Alexandria Rebecca Brown-Hedjazi was received into the Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation on July 1. Her sponsor is Presbyteria Vasiliki B. Kyriacou

Robert Mark Morales was received into the Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation on July 24. His Chrismation name is John. His sponsor is Alexander Kozak.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

Weddings

Alexander Frank Agapiadis and Myla Olivia Stephenson were married on June 11. Their Sponsor is Apostolis Delimpasis.

Constantine Peter Tsagaris and Alexandria Rebecca Brown-Hejazi were married on July 3. Their Sponsor is George Michael Tsagaris, II.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

Funerals

Gust Savas Vreneos, who fell asleep in the Lord on May 14, was buried May 24. Next of kin listed is Renzo Valle.

Stephen Costakis, who fell asleep in the Lord on May 29, was buried June 10. He is survived by his children, Anthony and Michael Costakis and Lori Ferreyra.

Charles Ambus, who fell asleep in the Lord on June 19, was buried June 24. He is survived by his children, Antonia Ambus and Peggy Ambus.

Olga Papadakis, who fell asleep on July 4, was buried July 10. She is survived by her husband, Emanuel, and daughter Maro Mavroforakis.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

Condolences

The Cathedral extends condolences to Dean and Marietta Moulas, on the death of their unborn child. The child was buried with other family members at the Greek Orthodox Memorial Park.

The Cathedral also extends condolences to Connie Panagotacos, whose husband, Neal White, fell asleep in the Lord recently. A memorial will be held for the repose of his soul on August 21.

AUGUST CALENDAR

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Church volleyball, 7 p.m.			Festival Baking: Koulourakia, 9 a.m.	Transfiguration, Orthros 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am		Church volleyball, 7 p.m.			Festival Baking: Baklava, 9 a.m.	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am	Dormition of the Theotokos, Orthros, 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10 a.m.	Soup Kitchen, 6:30 p.m. Church Volleyball, 7 p.m.		Festival Baking: Spanakopita, 9 a.m.	Festival Baking: Spanakopita, 9 a.m.	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice Resumes, 12 noon Parish Council, 12:30 p.m. Sunday Streets		Church volleyball, 7 p.m.		Festival Baking: Kourambiedes, 9 a.m.	Festival Baking: Kourambiedes, 9 a.m.	
28	29	30	31			
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice, 12 noon		Church volleyball, 7 p.m.				

“Just as it was only through her that the son came to us, was seen on earth, and lived among men, after previously being invisible to all, so from now on for endless eternity all progress towards the manifestation of divine light, every revelation of divine mysteries, and all forms of spiritual gifts are beyond everyone’s grasp without her.”

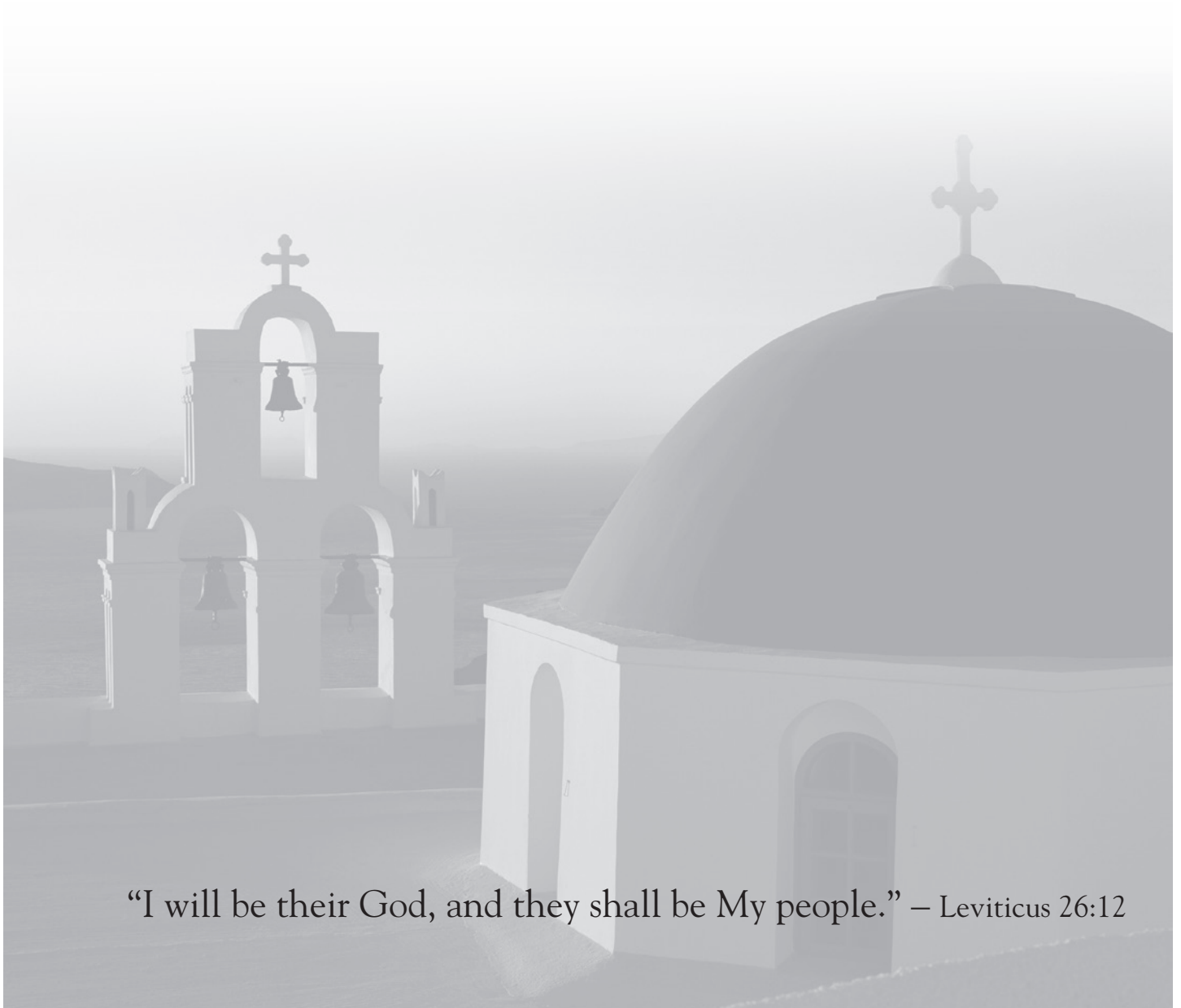
(On the Dormition)

“Of all those on earth she is the glory, of those in heaven the delight, the adornment of all creation. Source, fount and root of ineffable good things, she is the crown and perfection of all the saints.”

(On the Dormition)

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