



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

FEBRUARY 2017

“Inasmuch as You did not do it to one of the Least of These, You did it Not to Me” (Matthew 25.45)



It was at one of the Thanksgiving breakfasts sponsored by the Interfaith Council that Nancy Pelosi (then speaker of the House) attended and spoke at. She quoted Matthew 25, saying, in essence, it is what religion is all about. We recall the words of Jesus telling us the heart of the message is to “love the Lord your god with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might” (so far, Jesus is quoting Deuteronomy 6:5) “and your neighbor as yourself” (Luke

10:27). Jesus adds “and your neighbor as yourself.” One’s “neighbor” is anyone who is in need, as the Lord reminds us in the parable of the good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). Our neighbors are those who come to us the third Tuesday of every month to our Community Kitchen. This month’s Herald honors these neighbors of ours. Below are photos of our most recent Community Kitchen.



Community Kitchen: thank you for volunteering!

The Community Kitchen, which began under the name Soup Kitchen, operates the third Tuesday of every month. The volunteer work involves food prep, cooking, 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. Just look at the collage at the beginning of this Herald. Tots and teens. Seniors and all. Everyone turned out to make our Christmas Community Kitchen a true family event. How wonderful it would be for every month's Community Kitchen to be like this. We prayed and we sang. We ate and we connected. Guests and hosts alike. We thought, what if the entire world took notice and tried a little bit of outreach: the world would become a better place. How about it. 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.

BUILDING UPDATE A Pause To Reflect

The new Cathedral exterior has taken shape wonderfully, and it's truly inspiring to be able to see it in (almost) all its glory now that the scaffold and netting are gone. The finishing touches to the exterior and the courtyard restoration work are on temporary hold due to rain, and will resume as soon as we get a couple of weeks' dry weather.

This is a good time to pause and consider all we've accomplished, and remember why we're engaged in this great work. The first time I was in an Orthodox church (I'm a convert) someone explained how each of the elements of the physical building was tied to one of our human senses (ikons for our vision, incense for our sense of smell, etc.). He further explained that the purpose was both to remind us of our spirituality and to help us to directly feel the presence of the Divine. So all the splendid decorations and elaborate services serve a very practical purpose.



Our new Cathedral will serve this purpose beautifully. It will be a gracefully imposing space, which we can already see as its exterior nears completion. Inside, it will be harmoniously filled with air and light, much like Yosemite Valley or any other place of great natural beauty. And in this way, it will be more than just a refuge from the bustling world literally outside its doors, though it will provide that. It also will embody the Divine Presence to all who enter, and invite us to encounter God directly in our prayers and worship, not only inside the edifice, but in our daily lives. (Even though it's still incomplete, all who enter it already feel God's presence.) And, of course, it will be a beacon to passersby, inviting them to come and see for themselves.

While we've come a very long way since the first asphalt was taken up, we still have some distance to go to fulfill the promise of this work. So this really is a time of rest and renewal. We are creating something truly amazing, not only for ourselves, but for all who will come after. This pause point can be our opportunity to renew our commitment to see it completed.

"Look," he said. "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God." - Acts 7:56 - Ken Katen

A Biblical Garden on Valencia Street?

Sure, why not? But, what's a "Biblical garden?" Well, if you look through the Old and New Testaments, you will find any number of plants mentioned, familiar plants like the olive tree (Judges 9:9), the fig tree (Joel 1:7), hyssop (Leviticus 14:52), pomegranate (Song of Solomon 7:12), and wormwood (Revelation 8:11), but also many unfamiliar plants, as terebinth (2 Samuel 18:9), spikenard (Song of Solomon 4:14, nigella (Isaiah 28:26), and boxthorn (Proverbs 22:5). The best known of all is, perhaps, the burning bush, mentioned in the Book of Exodus (3:1). Now, some of the plants mentioned in Scripture will do well in the Mission District climate, others not so well.

A while back, thought was given to planning an urban garden in various areas around the new Cathedral, one that could support the Community kitchen. This would be primarily a vegetable garden and would, therefore, be seasonal. Our current thinking is that a Biblical garden could feature plants that would be in season the year round and, at the same time, connect us to our Scriptural roots. We welcome your suggestions, meanwhile. We have some time to go before planting begins, but it's not too early to ask, "a Biblical garden on Valencia Street?"

Bartholomew: Apostle and Visionary. Every so often a book comes out that is a must-read. One such book, by the Reverend Deacon John Chryssavgis, is entitled *Bartholomew*. The subtitle is *Apostle and Visionary*. The superinscription is *25 Years of Guiding the Christian East*.

In about 260 pages, Father Chryssavgis, joined by a number of world figures offering reflections, summarizes the life and life's work of the person who, more than

see next box



Almost there!

The scaffolding has been down for a few weeks now, and one can see this magnificent landmark which you are creating—a center of our Greek Orthodox faith in the heart of the City! You should be very proud. Go ahead and share the good news with your friends, relatives and neighbors. Invite them to come and see what you are doing in response to God's invitation, "*Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.*" (Translated from the Septuagint: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). Meanwhile, weather permitting, waterproofing of the deck and around the garage is taking place. The entrenchment drain is being constructed, as are the housing for the garage exhaust ducts, and the restoration of the archways. Connection to the sewers, on the Stevenson Street side, took place December 17. On the Valencia Street side, due to take place on January 11, has been rescheduled for Saturday, January 28.

As for the interior, we hope to complete much of it by the end of 2017, as your generosity permits. We need your prayers and your continued financial support, enabling the Cathedral to continue building. We hope to be done with the exterior by March and to start using the garage by April. Work on the interior can then begin. We hope to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God to coincide with our 100th anniversary, in 2021. God will bless us, indeed, if His All Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, who laid the cornerstone back in 1997, also consecrates it to God's glory in 2021! Let's join together & move full-speed ahead to complete what we've begun.

Parking during Construction (for a few more months-thankfully)

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 our white 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 parking arrangements with the lot behind the Cathedral will end as soon as our own parking structure is up and running.

Remember, Lord, the Blessed and Ever-memorable Founders and Benefactors of this Holy Church...

We ask this of God every time we pray in church. For, the Church is founded upon those who offer themselves—in some cases, giving their very lives—so that the holy Name of God may be glorified. Here at the Annunciation, the prayer becomes more personal, as we are also building up the physical church—the place where the holy Name of God will be glorified until the end of time. It is not, therefore, an ordinary undertaking. It is unique. It is historic. It is sacred. You who are making it happen: your names will be remembered, not only on earth, on memorial plaques and at the *prothesis* (the table of oblation); your names will be remembered in heaven. As we still reside on earth, we thank you and acknowledge your gifts in earthly ways. From time to time, we will note your giving in the *Herald*. When the Cathedral is finished and consecrated, the memorial plaque will be permanently affixed on the wall, acknowledging that your generosity made it possible.

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continued next page

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Italics denotes deceased

MY NAME'S NOT IN THE LIST ABOVE. I WOULD LIKE TO GIVE, BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH TO GIVE.

Read on. We've been hearing a lot about pledging to the Building Fund over a five-year period. You may not be able to make a large one-time gift. But, what if you thought about giving the equivalent of a cup of coffee a day. Typically, a plain cup costs \$2. If you can put aside the equivalent of a cup of coffee, that's about \$730 a year. You do the math. The chart below shows how, by thinking in terms of a per person/per day gift of a few dollars and cents, one can make a meaningful gift over a 5-year period. Look it over and consider how you may become a part of this awesome undertaking of rebuilding the Cathedral. By doing so, you may also save on your taxes, as every cent given to the Building Fund is fully tax-deductible, to the extent allowed by law. And, every gift totaling \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged on the donor wall which will be placed in the new Cathedral. Let us know and we will be happy to answer any questions you may have. Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss donating something other than cash, something like stocks or bonds, or if you would like to learn about other donor opportunities, in addition to making your per person/per day gift of a few dollars and cents, contact the Cathedral, office@annunciation.org, or speak with Father Stephen or Tom Nuris.

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



Souvla opens in the Mission

Charles (above right), and Jennifer (next to Metropolitan Gerasimos) opened their third Souvla in three years. This one is located on Valencia Street, between 18th and 19th Streets. His Eminence Metropolitan, joined by Father Stephen, blessed this eatery (as he had blessed the first two), noting this is not just about doing business, but about connection, hospitality and ultimately, God’s love. We wish them every success!

OIKOS Lecture Series Continues

As we’ve been doing for a while, periodically, we schedule speakers, through our OIKOS program. OIKOS (Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services), under the direction of Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., and the assistance of Dr. Tony Elite, sponsors the talks, which are aimed at informing, engaging, and edifying our parishioners in any number of areas involving individual and communal spiritual growth, family dynamics, and parish life. Some of them are erudite (i.e. they are offered by people who teach at the college/university level. Some are instructional in a different way. They are offered by clerics or by laypeople with responsibilities over a particular ministry in the Church. Other are offered by fellow parishioners based on their experiences. All are informative and worthwhile, as they offer a variety of views. The talks take place the first Sunday of each month, during the coffee hour.

any other in the last century and in the present century has impacted the Orthodox Church and its place in the world, culminating in the convening of the Great and Holy Council on the island of Crete in June 2016.

The forward was written by none other than Pope Francis. We reprint it for you, in its entirety, with the hope and that you will read and be inspired by the entire book:

“It is with sentiments of heartfelt closeness that I join all those who celebrate, with joy and jubilation, the twenty-fifth anniversary this year of the election of His All-Holiness Bartholomew I as Ecumenical Patriarch.

“My first meeting with my beloved brother Bartholomew
see next box

We’ve had a monk speak to us about the meaning of the *komboskene*. We’ve had a talk by Alex Kozak who explored St. Maximos the Confessor, e.g. on the topic of the Incarnation. We’ve heard Basil Crowe talk about the development of ecclesiastical music. Dr. Katina Kostoulas has spoken to us on dealing with teenagers and other issues of parenting and nurturing according to the Church Fathers. And the list goes on. We are looking ahead to hearing a first-hand experience with Syrian refugees on the island of Lesbos, from Barbara Karvellis, on Sunday, March 12, to Professor Martha Klironomos on the Bloomsbury Group and how their travels to Greece and Italy inspired the integration of Byzantine motifs into their art. We also look forward to hearing Professor George Kordis, when he comes to “write” the icons in the new Cathedral; he will be speaking, as well, at the PAOI/Graduate Theological Union and at Stanford University. We plan to hear, finally, from Janine Economides and others. Perhaps from young professionals, who have come to San Francisco to work in the tech world, medical research, journalism, etc., as well a number of others.

Introduction to Orthodoxy (encore une fois)

Introduction to Orthodoxy” Class Welcomes New Members to the Faith

The new Annunciation cathedral recalls the beauty and majesty of other churches more than a millennium old, such as Hagia Sophia in Constantinople. Those who have been fortunate enough to witness its construction know that, like those older churches, it is being built to last, and one can imagine it serving the needs of the faithful, God willing, centuries from now. The building is an impressive, outward sign of our community’s conscious outreach to the city and the world. By building a sanctuary for God, we are simultaneously expressing a gesture of welcome to all future generations of Orthodox Christians.

Some of them will be born into our families, while others will marry into the faith. Still others will come to us simply because they are astounded by the beauty of our worship, the richness of our theological traditions, and our special emphasis on the mystery of our intimate encounter with God. Whether future parishioners are drawn into the fold by love for its members, for their resilient, ancient faith, or by a mixture of the two, we must continue to be prepared to accommodate incoming Orthodox Christians of every background.

The Cathedral’s weekly “Introduction to Orthodoxy” class aims to facilitate the spiritual journey of those considering joining our Church. We prepare adult inquirers for their baptisms and chrismations, and we explore the richness of our faith through discussion of Holy Scripture, the theology of the Church Fathers, and the lives of the Saints. The goal of the course is to provide people with acculturation in the Church prior to their becoming full members in it.

I invite all of you to encourage spouses and relatives to visit our class if you think they might want to join the Orthodox Church. But just as importantly, please try to identify new visitors who show an interest in our faith and encourage them to be a part of "Introduction to Orthodoxy." I know from personal experience that Annunciation Cathedral is uncommonly welcoming to outside visitors, and we must all do our part to help people interested in joining us.

"Introduction to Orthodoxy" meets in the upstairs conference room (near Fr. Stephen's office) on Sundays from 9 a.m. until the beginning of the Liturgy. We are on a short hiatus due to winter holidays; classes resume January 8. Please direct any questions about the class to me at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com.

Social Justice Committee (Redux)

As we mentioned in the last issue of the *Herald*, a parishioner recently asked whether the Church ever takes public stands on social justice issues and whether there has ever been a thought to forming a social justice committee. Notice, here, the word "Church" is capitalized, meaning it has to do with the entire Body of Christ, including the church at the parish level.

The answer to the first part of the question is a resounding yes. One may recall Archbishop Iakovos marching with Dr. Martin Luther King, or the stand the Archdiocese has taken on Cyprus and other issues, especially the recent plight of refugees and the persecution of Christians in the Middle East. The Church, both on its own and together with bodies as the World Council of Churches and other agencies, has often addressed issues of world hunger and other issues which may be considered to be social justice issues. The Bible regularly addresses social justice issues, as do the Fathers of the Church, especially St. John Chrysostom and St. Basil the Great. The foundational "for so God loved the world" (John 3:16) encompasses what is often called social justice. We must note that the Church [the Orthodox Church] never separates social justice concerns from theology, and takes a dim view of movements that claim to be concerned with social justice without a firm grounding in the Gospel. This said, let's go to the second part of the question. The part about forming a social justice committee. The Annunciation Cathedral is open to exploring this. In doing so, it extends an invitation to parishioners who might be interested in meeting and doing just this. The committee will do well to look at the Metropolis Strategic Plan, especially its singular outreach ministry program, as well as the work of the San Francisco Interfaith Council. Its 2016 Thanksgiving Prayer Breakfast, in fact, honored San Francisco congregations with Social Justice Committees. It is time for Annunciation Cathedral to take its place among those congregations, addressing Social Justice issues from an Orthodox Christian point of view. If you are interested, please let us hear from you. Communicate with Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org, initially, and, then, with the committee chair. We would like to bring together a group of at least ten people.

Parish Council Meets, Elects Officers

On January 8, following the administration of the oath of office to the newly elected members of the Parish Council, the new members, the eight members who were elected last year to a two-year term, and Father Stephen, convened for the purpose of electing officers for 2017: Elected unanimously are the following: S. Christopher Kyriacou, Esq., President; Dean Nicolacakis, Vice-President; Deno Konstantinidis, Secretary; Philippos Athanasiades, Treasurer; and Nick Rally, Assistant Treasurer. A new position was created, that of Assistant Secretary. George Ambadiotakis Ambus, D.D.S. was elected to this position. Meanwhile, Pat Aleck, who is President of the Philoptochos, and Angie Leventis, who keeps the books for the Capital Campaign, are on the Parish Council in their current capacity. The remaining members of the Parish Council are: George Gavros, Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., Vassiliki Moulas, Manoli Nuris, Thomas A. Nuris, Esq., Paul P. Sogotis, Archon Orphanotrophos, Nicholas Svetcoff, and James D. Vorrises. The Parish Council typically meets the third Sunday of the month, following the Divine Liturgy, and at other times, as needed. The Parish Assembly, meanwhile, is convened twice a year. It will be convened on March 26 and on Sunday, October 29, following the Divine Liturgy.

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.

took place on the very day of the inauguration of my papal ministry, when he honored me with his presence in Rome. I felt that I was meeting a man who "walks by faith" (cf. 2 Corinthians 5:7), who in his person and his manner expresses all the profound human and spiritual experience of the Orthodox tradition. On that occasion we embraced each other with sincere affection and mutual understanding. Our successive meetings in Jerusalem, Rome, and Constantinople have not only strengthened our spiritual affinity, but above all have deepened our shared consciousness of the common

see next box

Honor Roll of Stewards

Below is a list of 2017 Stewards. This includes those who have sent in their Stewardship Pledge cards for 2017, as well as those who pledged in 2016, but who have not sent in your cards yet. In our Stewardship mailing back in November, we indicated that, if we did not hear from you by January 15, then we would go ahead and automatically include you in 2017, at your 2016 pledging level. You may adjust your pledging level when you send in your 2017 Stewardship pledge. The names include those stewardship pledges that were received as of January 15 (when the February Herald went to press). If, for some reason, you sent in your 2017 Stewardship pledge card or payed through the Cathedral's web site, annunciation.org, and you do not see your name below, please bring it to our attention. We do our very best to be as accurate as possible. Occasionally, however, a mistake may occur. We apologize for it. We are thankful for your stewardship, and take this opportunity to acknowledge your support. For, without you, we would not be able to serve you and, together with you, to glorify the holy Name of our God. So, once again, thank you. Eucharisto!

Aleck, Demetria	Dermitzakis, Katherine	Karas, Angelus
Aleck, Patricia	Destein, Patricia	Karas, Bill
Allen, Maria & Andrew	Dimitriou, Agnes	Karas, Chris
Ambus, Anthony & Zetta	Doukas, Danae	Karas, Eva
Ambus, Dr. Antonia	Dreibelbis, Bessie	Karas, Joanna
Ambus, Dr. George & Tessa	Drogitis, Joanne	Karas, Kathy
Ambus, Dr. Terry & Marina	Drolapas, Mr. & Mrs. Themis	Karas, Mr. & Mrs. Tom
Angelopoulos, Jean	Economopoulos, Nancy & Philip	Kasolas, Michael & Stella
Arestis, Lambrini	Efstratis, Jenny, Greg & Alexi	Kastoras, Athanasios & Niki
Argyres, Ackie	Eliopoulos, Annette & John	Katsanis, Gari
Armatas, Christina	Eliopoulos, Jr., John	Kavalaris, James & Joanne
Arsinoos, Mariam	Eliopoulos, Louie	Keller, Sylvia & Jefferey
Arvanitidis, Athena & Nicholas	Eliopoulos, Peter John	Kenney, Danae & Knute
Arvantelis, Agapi	Elite, Dr. Anthony	Keramari, Mr. & Mrs. Demitrios
Asimos, Chrisula	Esteves, Jedeiah	Kintis, Mr. George
Asprogerakas, Eliana	Fanourgiakis, George & Stavroula	Kleinekorte, Mr. & Mrs. Richard
Athanasiades, Philip & Diala	Farmas, Dino & Maria	Koche, George
Bagatelos, Michael	Fisher, Gary & Dr. Alex Zaphiris	Kokalis, Despina Nick
Bagatelos, Peter A.	Fkiaras, Evgenia N.	Kolokithas, Aristotle & Janine
Balian, Annamarie & Robert	Flynn, Mr. & Mrs. Steve	Konstantinidis, Deno C. & Bella
Balian, Nicholas M.	Fotenos, Mr. James F.	Kontonis, Mr. & Mrs. Andreas
Bardis, John & Kathleen	Fousekis, Mr. & Mrs. Vlasis and Kalliope	Kontonis, Mr. & Mrs. Nick
Barlas, Constantine	Fousekis, Shareen & Spiros	Kosaris, Paul & Irene
Bissas, Maria	Fragakis, Charalambos & Marianthe	Kostoulas, Katina Kay, Ph.D.
Bizani, Alexandra E.	Franco, Mr. & Mrs. Michael	Kotseroglou, Marianne E.
Bonatsos, Nikolaos	Franco, Mrs. Helen	Kottas, Angelos
Boone, Harriet	Frangos, Ilya	Koulos, Mr. & Mrs. Leo Paul
Bozionelos, Jim & Florika	Garibaldi, David & Kathie	Kourkoutakis, Elaine
Bratis, Peter D.	Garibaldi, Nicole & Michael	Kouropoulos, Georgia
Brattis, Denise	Gavros, Dora & George	Koutoulas, Angelo & Victoria
Callas, Georgia	Gazulis, Theodore	Koutoulas, Dina
Calligeros, Tessie	Gebremariam, Hiwet & Zeru, Menghiste	Koutoulas, Grace & Kosta
Cardellini, Marie	Georgatos, Mr. & Mrs. Nicko M.	Koutoulas, Panagiota
Carter, Eleni Larissopoulos	Georgatos, Mrs. Toula	Koutoulas, Pete & Voula
Cazanis, Peter & Katerina	George, Sam	Koutsakis, Helen
Chiappari, James	Giannis, Demetrios & Rose	Kozak, Alexandros & Elizavet
Chiappari, Philip & Annette	Giannis, Mr. & Mrs. Xenophon	Kyriacou, Mr. & Mrs. Chris
Chiappari, Yvonne	Glafkides, Mr. & Mrs. Constantine	Kyriacou, Mr. Justin
Cocoles, Jim & Luba	Glaros, Stanley	Kyriacou, Rev. Stephen & Alik
Cocoles, Stanley	Gogonas, Panos John	Lampros, Katherine T.
Contos, Christopher	Grampsas, Bonnie	Lampros, Mr. John & Magdalene
Courcoumelis, C. & Elaine	Grohs, Katie and Bob	Lappos, Denis
Cruz, John	Gumas, Alexandra	Lawrence, Effie & Stephen
Curd, Vivian & John	Hamberis, Lillian (Stavroula)	Lazarakis, Patricia
Cusulos, Nan	Hamberis, Paul	Lazarakis, Tom
Dakis, Elli & James	Haralabopoulos, Peter	Leventis, Angie & Theodore
Dalianes, Athan & Marguerite	Haralambopoulos, Constantine & Eleftheria	Lingas, Dr. John
Danielidis, Maria	Haras, Louis & Panagiota	Lingas, Elena O. & Zachary H Weiner
Davies, Ethel	Hareng, Calvin	Loufas, Mr. & Mrs. John
De-Simone, Giovanna-Maria	Henderson, Brittany D.	Lougaris, Filippa
Decker, Christina	Hillas, Patrick	Loukissas, Alex
Dedes, Constantina	Holloway, Vicki Eleni	Lyberopoulos, Bob & Lea
Dekaristos, Mrs. Anastasia	Johns, Mr. & Mrs. John	Makras, Effie
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie	Kallas, John & Kristina	Makras, Elaine
Demakas, George D.	Kallas, Mrs. Louise	Makras, Sophie
Demetry, Andrew	Kalligeros, George	Makras, Thalia
Derdevanis, Charlotte	Kanakis, Evangelis & Peter	Makras, Victor & Farah

Manetas, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Marcopulos, Cynthia
Mares, Kathryn & William
Markanton, Helen
Markoulakis, Chrisoula S.
Markoulakis, George
Markoulakis, Greg & Sophia
Mastrokyriakos, Nikolaos
Mattis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Mavrakakis, Mary
Mavroudis, Aglaia
Mavroudis, Mr. & Mrs. Anastasios
McKnight, Nektarios L.
Melitas, Irene
Mellos, Faye
Meyer, Beverly A.
Mires, Mary
Misthos, Katerina
Misthos, Michael & Christina
Mitchel, Mary
Monolakis, John S. & Demetra
Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Monte
Morales, Mrs. Helen
Morales, Robert
Morearty, Margaret Fotinos
Moulas, Mrs. Vasiliki
Moulas, Vicky A.
Moulinos, Mr. & Mrs. Alexander J.
Mountanos, Michael S. & Erika
Mourgos, George & Dena
Mouroufas, Tula
Nager, Perri
Nashawati, Bashar & Rawd
Nicolacakis, Maria & Dean
Nicolas, Helen
Nicolas, Nick & Maryanne
Nicolas, Rita
Novo, Dustin & Chrisula Bissas
Nuris, Manoli
Nuris, Manuel & Teia
Nuris, Thomas & Liberty
Ocampo, Melisa
Oetzel, Robert & Pauline
Orologas, Maria
OSSIPOFF, Alexander & Lula
Panagiotopoulos, Anton & Sotria
Panagiotopoulos, Magdl
Panagotacos White, Connie
Panagotacos, Dr. Peter
Panagulias, John R.
Pano, James
Panomitros, John & Helen
Pantages, Mary
Pantages, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Papadakis, Emanuel
Papadakis, Mr. Spiros
Papadeas, Dr. & Mrs. Gregory G.
Papadopoulos, Stefanos
Papageorge, Mr. and Mrs. Petros & Nicole
Papageorge, Mr. & Mrs. Tom
Papageorgiou, Dr. Sophia
Papavasilou, George & Lea
Papingu, Robert & Alma
Pappas, Stephanie & Robert Micheal Li
Pappas, Voula
Paras, Demetra
Paras, Helen
Parashis, Marion
Patiris, Mrs. Yiota
Patropulos, Joan
Peters, Kenneth & Polymiti
Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert

Petrou, Janis G.
Pezo, Lester & Chrisoula
Philliou, Dimitrios
Ploumitsakos, John & Marcella Novaes
Ponticas, Louis N.
Pope, Agalia
Pope, Antoinette
Poulakidas, Dean
Poulakidas, Jennifer
Poulakidas, Sakee & Irene
Poulos, James & Despina
Prountzos, Pat
Proutnzos, George & Pat
Quinn, Martin & Georgiana
Radiotes, Lisa
Radovich, Genevieve
Raggio, Nicholas & Anastasia
Rakos, Jim & Kelly
Rally, Helen
Rally, John & Mary
Rally, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas
Ramos, Christopher
Rangaswami, M & K Desby
Rangaves, George
Rangaves, Kay
Razis, Mrs. Harklia
Riedel, Dorothy
Rotter, J. Ward & Barbara
Roumeliotas, Valerie & Dimitri
Rudha, Lorena
Sahpazis, John & Irini
Salevouris, Billie
Sarikakis, Emalia
Sarikakis, Mr. & Mrs. Mike
Sarilakis, Nikolaos
Selianitis, Helen
Selianitis Jr. III, Tony
Selianitis, Louis John & Wendy
Selimis, Nick
Shatar, Nader & Sawsan
Sheldon, Athena
Simotas, Demetrios
Simotas, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry
Siouris, Michele Y.
Skinas, Mr. & Mrs. Kosmas
Skorinis, Christina
Sogotis, Mrs. Rose
Sogotis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul
Spanos, Georgia
Stamatopoulos, Anna
Stathopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Marios
Stathopoulos, Nikolaos & Voula
Stathoudakis, Frosso
Stavrides, Marilena
Stefanitsis, Dennis & Amy
Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Peter C.
Stowe, Halsey
Stratakis, Anna
Stratoudakis, George & Georgia
Svetcoff, Nicholas
Tacticos, George
Tamaras, Joy
Tamareisis, Dorothy
Taptelis, Tom & Helen
Tarlson, Mr. & Mrs. Nick G.
Tasso, James
Taylor, Mr. Edward
Thomas, Annamarie
Thomas, James & Diane
Thompson, Stephanie & Jeffrey
Tonas, Basil & Mary
Tracas, Christina J.

Tryphonas, Stephanos
Tsagaris, Eleni
Tsiatis, Athanasios & Christina
Tsfourdaris, Spiridon
Tsokas, Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios
Tsougarakis, Mary C.
Vafiadis, Konstantinos
Vafiadis, Mrs. Irene
Vafiadis, Nikolas S.
Varanis, Terpsi
Vardakastanis, Katerina
Vasilogiorgis, Foula
Vastardis, Rachel
Vavuris, Mr. & Mrs. James
Vellis, Aris
Vellis, Costas & Meena
Velonis, Marianne
Violett, Lee & Stavroulla
Vlahos, George V.
Vlahos, John B. & Cynthia
Vorrises, Angelo J.
Vorrises, Denis G & Eugenia
Vorrises, Denis J. & Renee
Vorrises, Louise & James
Vorrises, Marie & Lukehart, Ryan
Vorrises, Mr. & Mrs. George
Vorrises, Stephanie Louise
Vouchilas, Georgia
Vouchilas, Gus
Vouchilas, Leo and Michele
Vozaites, Antonios & Thalia
Vrakas, Elaine
Vriheas, Loula
Weldezghi, Zeray
Wiener, Carl A
Xepoleas, Bessy
Yannaghas, Mary
Yeilding, Bret & Denise
Yeilding, Kevin
York, Bessie
Zarikos, Panagiotis & Angie
Zografos, Mrs. Evanthia
Zarou, Andrew & Evangelia

pastoral responsibility we have at this point in history, before the urgent challenges that Christians and the entire human family face today. In particular I hold dear to my heart the splendid memory of the warm and fraternal welcome extended to me by Patriarch Bartholomew during my visit to the Phanar for the Feast of the Apostle Andrew, patron saint of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, on November 30, 2014.

“The Church of Rome and the Church of Constantinople are united by a profound and long-standing bond, which not even centuries of silence and misunderstanding have been able to sever. This bond is exemplified by the relationship between those to whom tradition attributes the foundation of our respective Churches, namely, the holy apostles Peter and Andrew, two brothers in the flesh, but above all, two disciples of the Lord Jesus, who together believed in him, followed him, and ultimately shared his destiny on the cross, in the one and same hope of serving the coming

see next box

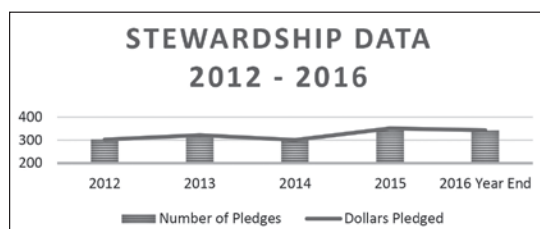
A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2016 was the highest in recent history. Hopefully, this trend continues in 2017. Currently, we list 339 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), pledging a total of \$288,947 for the support of the Cathedral's ministries. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the Cathedral operating, the level of support is promising. The average pledge amount has increased over recent years and that is a testimony to your commitment. The average pledge amount for 2016 was \$852 (as opposed to \$782 in 2013). With a little more effort, we can easily reach a \$1,000.00 annual pledge average. Our annual Stewardship pledge goal for 2017 is to make it to \$300,000. With your continued support, love for the Lord and His people, and willingness, we can easily attain this goal in 2017.

Stewardship Growth Speaks for Itself

Below is the most recent report submitted by the Stewardship Committee to the Parish Council. It is self-explanatory. It shows that stewardship (that is, the support of the Cathedral and its ministries by means of an annual pledge) is continuing to grow. Included in the 343 pledging units are 76 that had either not pledged to the Cathedral since 2012 or, in most cases, are new to the Cathedral. We welcome them and thank them for their support. Support takes commitment. And commitment takes faith. We are grateful to you for both.

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016 Year	2016
					End	Last Month / This Month
Number of Pledges	303	322	301	351	343	342/ 343
Pledged Dollars	\$253,844	\$251,670	\$234,092	\$299,637	289,989	291,375/ 289,989
Outstanding Balances 2016					14,857	30,709/ 14,857
Average Pledge	\$838.00	\$782.00	\$778.00	\$854.00	\$ 845.00	852/ 845
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above					113	113 / 113
Number of pledges between 601 and 999					33	33 / 33
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below					196	195 / 196
Number of individual 2015 pledges that have not pledged for 2016					76	76/ 76



Report:

1. Thank you to Grace Koutoulas and Meena Vellis who helped make the Stewardship Sunday event successful.
2. Year end donation statements will go out soon

of the kingdom. Our predecessors, the illustrious Athenagoras I and Blessed Paul VI, have left us the sacred task of tracing our way back along the path that paved the separation of our Churches, healing the sources of our mutual alienation, and moving toward the reestablishment of full communion in faith and love, mindful of our legitimate differences, just as it was in the first millennium. Today we, brothers in the faith and in the hope that does not fail, are profoundly united in our desire that Christians of East and West may feel themselves part of the one and only Church, so that they may proclaim to the whole world that "the grace of God has appeared, saving all and training us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and to live temperately, justly, and devoutly in this age, as we await the blessed hope, the appearance of the glory of the great God and of our savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:11-13 NAB).

"In the two joint declarations we signed in Jerusalem and at the Phanar, we affirmed decisively and determinedly our shared commitment, drawn from our faithfulness to the Gospel, to build a world that is more just and more respectful of every person's fundamental dignity and freedoms, the most important of which is religious freedom. We are also fundamentally joined in our

see next box



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

With the words “Neither Snow Nor Rain...” begins the US Postal Service creed. Well, this can be said to apply to Annunciation Cathedral’s parishioners who, on Sunday, January 8, braved the worst rain storm in decades to turn out for the Parish Vasilopita, sponsored by the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos. The *kalanta* (New Year’s carols) were sung and the Vasilopita (St. Basil’s Bread) was offered. After the Vasilopita was cut and pieces distributed to the heads of the Cathedral’s various ministries and parish organizations, a wonderful brunch was served. Each table also had a Vasilopita. Tradition has it that whoever gets the Vasilopita coin has a special blessing for the year. The individual Vasilopitas contained one coin each. The main Vasilopita, however, had three coins. The three coins fell to **Tula Mouroufas**, who that day represented all those who are contributing to rebuild the Cathedral church; **Deno Konstantinidis** who, as coach, represents the Cathedral’s basketball program; and **Dr. Katina Kostoulas**, who represents OIKOS (Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services). Congratulations and best wishes, and to all, a blessed, happy, prosperous and peaceful New Year!

From our Philoptochos President

February is that wonderful month that we celebrate friendship and love. Philoptochos sends our happy Valentine’s Day greetings to all the members of our community.

We congratulate all the wonderful members of our community who braved the stormy weather to join Philoptochos for our annual *Champagne Luncheon and Vasilopita*. Our team of Philoptochos women, under the chairmanship of Soso Dekaristos and Vicky Moulas, worked with much love to prepare the breads that held the coins for our enjoyment. Our many thanks go to John and Yvonne Stamatakis of Stella Catering who prepared the breakfast to accompany our Vasilopita. Congratulations to all who won the good luck coin. May your year be filled with many possibilities! As usual, some of our profits will go to St. Basil Academy.

As we go to press we are looking forward to our annual Crab Feed which will be held on Friday, January 27, 2017. The months of February and in March we will be busy for Philoptochos. We will designate a date to host Go Red Sunday with the American Heart Association. In addition, in March will prepare a luncheon to honor the Annunciation Feast day on March 25th. Also, our membership drive will soon begin. Please look for your membership card in the mail. All should be members of this organization that helps so many in need. Be part of Philoptochos and embrace, evolve and reach out to others with a giving spirit.

We send you all many hearts filled with love and joy.

shared commitment to raising further the awareness of individuals and wider society regarding the issue of the safeguarding of creation, the cosmic scenario in which God’s infinite mercy—offered, rejected, and restored—is manifested and glorified in every moment. I am deeply grateful for the leadership of the Ecumenical Patriarch in this field and for his reflections on this issue, from which I have learned and continue to learn so much.

“I have found a profound spiritual sensitivity in Patriarch Bartholomew toward the painful condition of humanity today, so profoundly wounded by unspeakable violence, injustice, and discrimination. We are both greatly disturbed by the grave sin against God, which seems to increase day by day, that is the globalization of indifference toward the defacement of the image of God in man. It is our conviction that we are called to work toward the construction of a new civilization of love and solidarity. We are both aware that the voices of our brothers and sisters, now to the point of extreme distress, compel us to proceed more rapidly along the path of reconciliation and communion between Catholics and Orthodox, precisely so that they may be able to proclaim credibly the Gospel of Peace that comes from Christ.

see next box

YOUTH NEWS

OYAA Basketball

Girls and Boys Elementary and Middle School basketball games which will be played at the Annunciation Cathedral for the remainder of the season are as follows:

Saturday, February 25:

9:30 a.m. BMS Annunciation vs. St. Gregory 2
 10:30 a.m. BMS Resurrection vs. St. Gregory 1
 11:30 a.m. BMS Holy Cross vs. St. Nicholas SJ
 12:30 p.m. BMS Ascension vs. Holy Trinity

Sunday, March 4:

11 a.m. BES Holy Cross vs. Annunciation
 12 p.m. GMS Annunciation vs. St. Gregory 1
 1 p.m. BMS Annunciation vs. St. Nicholas SJ
 2 p.m. BMS St. Gregory 2 vs. Holy Trinity

Playoffs will be played Saturday, March 11 and Championships will be played Sunday, March 12. Times and venues to be announced.

Please refer to www.oyaasportscentral.com for game times and venues other than at the Annunciation Cathedral.

Dance Group News

FDF 2017 San Diego – Here We Come!

Our amazing dance groups are busy preparing for the Greek Orthodox Diocese’s Annual Folk Dance Festival (FDF). FDF takes place every year in a different part of the Metropolis, and this year it is in San Diego, CA. We have 4 groups presenting suites of dances from different regions of Greece. Our 4 groups are To Mellon, Revmata, Thisavri, and Spithes. Out of over 70 dance program participants, 65 are able to attend and we expect them to have an unforgettable experience. All groups are currently closed in preparation for FDF, however they will be open to new dancers starting in March 2017.

You will be able to get a sneak peek of the FDF performances at an FDF preview breakfast sponsored by our dance groups on Sunday, February 12th after church. See the ad on the next page.

To Mellon: Pre-K-K (must be at least 4 years old in Fall 2016) Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 1st-3rd grade in Fall 2016 Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, and Trina Misthos

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

“Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy.”

~Saint Theophan the Recluse

Sunday School News

February-March, our Sunday School will prepare for and participate in the annual Oratorical Festival named in honor of St. John Chrysostom, the greatest orator of the church. Grades 4 - High School will have the opportunity to choose and write about one of the topics provided by the Archdiocese Religious Studies and then present their speech in front of the congregation after liturgy on Sunday, March 12th. Although, the oral presentation of the speech is optional, every student will participate in the writing assignment during class. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to express in writing and orally their feelings and beliefs about their Orthodox faith.

Sunday School Calendar February – June 2017

February 5	Regular Classes
February 12	Oratorical Festival - Topics Handout Class Discussion Grades 4-High School
February 19	FDF Weekend – No Sunday School
February 26	Music Lesson – Upper Grades 7th-HS
March 5	Sunday of Orthodoxy Icon Procession after Liturgy
March 12	Oratorical Speeches – Immediately following Liturgy
March 19	Music Lesson Lower Grades 1st-6th Sunday of the Holy Cross Procession of the Cross
March 26	Music Lesson – Upper Grades 7th-HS
April 2	Godparent Sunday
April 9	Palm Sunday –Sunday School Class Photos
April 14	TGI – Pascha – Good Friday Sunday School Program
April 16	Holy Pascha – Easter Sunday – No Sunday School
April 23	Music Lesson – Lower Grades 1st-6th
April 30	Music Lesson – Upper Grades 7th-HS
May 7	Regular Classes
May 14	Mother’s Day – Class Project
May 21	Regular Classes
May 28	Memorial Holiday – No Sunday School
June 4	Last Day of Sunday School – Graduation Program

**We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Photographs from the Sunday School Christmas program.**



We participated in the SF Fire Department's Toy Drive

*The Annunciation Cathedral
Dance Groups*

*To Mellon
Revmata
Thisavri
Spithes*

Invite you to join us for our



Preview Breakfast

Date: Sunday, February 12th

Time: Directly after church

Cost: \$10 per person

Each group will perform one of their FDF dance suites for our friends and family who are not able to attend FDF.



Sunday School affirms the home as the center of our faith. Parents are the most important people in a child's life, and learning about our Orthodox faith starts in the home. Teaching children about God is a seven-day-a-week effort, not something that can be done just an hour on Sunday morning. We pledge to do our best to support you in your child's spiritual education but it is only with your active participation that we are able to share the importance and value of our Orthodox faith with your children.

"Please make every effort this year to get Sunday School and the children off to a good start by coming on time at 10:30 am."

**'Like'
Annunciation
Cathedral Sunday
School!**



**Find us on:
facebook.**

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 present school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers have taken 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 February is as follows:

- February 5 – Group 3
February 12 – Group 4
February 19 – Group 1,2
(those not attending FDF)
February 26 – Group 3

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)

Don't see your name here? Would you like to join us? We would like you to. Report for altar duty any Sunday morning, prior to 10:30 a.m., and Nektarios will make the appropriate arrangements. Meanwhile, it is also imperative that you attend Sunday School.

Greek School News

Greek school held its annual Christmas celebration on Saturday, December 17. The students recited Christmas poems and sang Christmas songs, thereby extending our school wishes everyone for a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year. Classes resume January 7, 2017.

If you would like more information about our school or would like to enroll your child for next year, please contact Anthi janssens at anthigj@gmail.com or 415-254-5458. We look forward to welcoming you.

Sacraments

Baptisms

Ayden Kai, son of Andrew Vrakas and Crystal Ruelas, was baptized January 7. His sponsors are Soula Papalios and Hro Tsakoyias.

Athena Angelina, daughter of Andrew Vrakas and Crystal Ruelas, was baptized January 7. Her sponsor is Eleni Vrakas.

Leonidas Andreas (also baptized Georgios), son of Andrew Vrakas and Crystal Ruelas, was baptized January 7. His sponsors are Andreas and Eleni Rizopoulos.

Halsey Leonidas MacLeigh Martin Stowe, son of Marshall Stowe and Carol Martin, was baptized January 28. His sponsor is Stamatia Kostakis.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

Funerals

Antonia Vallianos, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 5, was buried January 13. She is survived by her children Denny Vallianos and her daughter Eleni Vallianos, and their families, as well as by brother Spiro Jouganatos.

Michael George Stamatopoulos, who fell asleep in the Lord on January 4, was buried January 17. He is survived by his wife, Anna and their children, Maria Lezcano and George Stamatopoulos, and their families.

Aionia I Mnimi! Memory Eternal!

Condolences

The Annunciation Cathedral extends condolences to the Kounalakis family on the falling asleep of Vasiliki "Vaso" Kounalakis.

The Annunciation Cathedral extends condolences to the Rangaves family on the falling of sleep in the Lord of Louis Rangaves.

Eternal Memory!

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1	2	3	4
			Church Basketball, 7 p.m.	Presentation to the Temple, Liturgy, 10 a.m. Church Basketball, 7 p.m.		Greek School 10 a.m. Dance Practice 12:30 p.m.
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Dance Practice 12:30 p.m. Basketball Games			Church Basketball, 7 p.m.	Church Basketball, 7 p.m.		Greek School 10 a.m. Dance Practice 12:30 p.m.
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. FDF Preview Brunch			Church Basketball, 7 p.m.	Folk Dance Festival, San Diego, CA		Saturday of Souls Liturgy at Greek Cemetery Chapel, 10 a.m.
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Folk Dance Festival, San Diego, CA		Community Kitchen, 6:30 p.m.	Church Basketball, 7 p.m.	Church Basketball, 7 p.m.		Greek School 10 a.m. Saturday of Souls Liturgy at Greek Cemetery Chapel, 10 a.m.
26	27	28				
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Basketball Games Parish Council, 12:30 p.m.	Great Lent Begins					

“For these many reasons I am very happy that the twenty-fifth anniversary of the election of my friend and brother Bartholomew as patriarch of the ancient and glorious See of Constantinople is being celebrated by so many who give thanks to the Lord for his life and ministry. I consider it to be both a grace and a privilege to walk together with Patriarch Bartholomew in the hope of serving our one Lord Jesus Christ, counting not upon our meager strengths, but on the faithfulness of God, and sustained by the intercession of the saintly brothers, the apostles Andre and Peter.

“It is in this certainty and with an unflinching remembrance in prayer that I express to His All-Holiness Patriarch Bartholomew my heartfelt and fraternal good wishes for a long life in the love and consolation of the Triune and One God.”

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

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“Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven...”

