



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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APRIL 2017















Χριστός Ανέστη!

Pascha: Everything's About Pascha!

As we know, there are two liturgical cycles during the year. One is centered around the *fixed feasts*. These are feast days whose days of celebration are fixed. Feasts like Christmas, which always falls on December 25 (regardless of the day of the week), or like Holy Theophany (January 6) or the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15). The other cycle is centered around the *moveable feasts*. These are feasts whose dates vary from year to year. This consists of Holy Pascha (which commemorates the Resurrection of Christ) and the days which precede Pascha and also the days which follow it. Please see the chart below, entitled Lenten and Paschal Cycle. There, you can see when Pascha falls, through the year 2020, and all those feasts associated with it, from Zacchaeus Sunday through the Apostles' fast. Briefly, Holy Pascha is calculated according to the formula set down at the First Ecumenical Council, which was convened in Nicaea, in the year 325 AD: the first Sunday following the first full moon following the spring equinox. Depending upon the first full moon following the spring equinox, the first Sunday following can range from the end of March to the beginning of May. However, through the year 2020, Pascha will fall during the month of April. This year, the Eastern and Western Churches will celebrate Pascha together. For the next three years, however, primarily because of the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in the West (the East still bases the calculation of Pascha on the Julian calendar), Pascha will be celebrated one week apart.

Lenten and Paschal Cycle

	Zacchaeus Sunday	2016 Feb 14	2017 Jan 29	2018 Jan 21	2019 Feb 10	2020 Feb 2
	Publican & Pharisee Beginning of the Lenten Tridion	2016 Feb 21	2017 Feb 5	2018 Jan 28	2019 Feb 17	2020 Feb 9
	Prodigal Son	2016 Feb 28	2017 Feb 12	2018 Feb 4	2019 Feb 24	2020 Feb 16
	Meatfare	2016 Mar 6	2017 Feb 19	2018 Feb 11	2019 Mar 3	2020 Feb 23
	Cheesefare Forgiveness Sunday	2016 Mar 13	2017 Feb 26	2018 Feb 18	2019 Mar 10	2020 Mar 1
	Beginning of Great Lent	2016 Mar 14	2017 Feb 27	2018 Feb 19	2019 Mar 11	2020 Mar 2
	Palm Sunday	2016 Apr 24	2017 Apr 9	2018 Apr 1	2019 Apr 21	2020 Apr 12
	PASCHA Beginning of the Pentecostarion	2016 May 1	2017 Apr 16	2018 Apr 8	2019 Apr 28	2020 Apr 19
	Midfeast	2016 May 25	2017 May 10	2018 May 2	2019 May 22	2020 May 13
	Ascension	2016 Jun 9	2017 May 25	2018 May 17	2019 Jun 6	2020 May 28
	Pentecost	2016 Jun 19	2017 Jun 4	2018 May 27	2019 Jun 16	2020 Jun 7
	SS. Peter & Paul Fast Begins	2016 Jun 27	2017 Jun 12	2018 Jun 4	2019 Jun 24	2020 Jun 15
	Length of Fast	2 Days	17 Days	25 Days	5 Days	14 Days
	Western Easter	2016 Mar 27	2017 Apr 16	2018 Apr 1	2019 Apr 21	2020 Apr 12

April 2 is Godparents Sunday

Every year, the Sunday before Palm Sunday, Godparents Sunday is observed at the Cathedral. Godparents Sunday is an opportunity for all of us to reconnect with our Godparents and for Godparents to reconnect with those whom we've sponsored into the Faith—our Godchildren. The bond between Godparents and Godchildren is a sacred one, second only to the bond that exists between parents and children. This year, Godparents Sunday falls on April 2 (Palm Sunday falls on April 9 and Pascha falls on April 16). On that day, just prior to Holy Communion, we will be asked to recite our baptismal vows, as follows:

1. **Do you renounce Satan? R: I renounce Satan.**
Ἀποτάσσω τῷ Σατανᾷ; Ἀποτάσσομαι.
2. **Have you renounced Satan? R: I have renounced Satan.** Ἀπετάξω τῷ Σατανᾷ; Ἀπεταξάμην.
3. **Do you join yourself to Christ? R: I do.**
Συντάσσω τῷ Χριστῷ; Συντάσσομαι.
4. **Have you joined yourself to Christ? R: I have.**
Συνετάξω τῷ Χριστῷ; Συνεταξάμην.
5. **And, do you believe in Him? R: I believe in Him as King and as God. Καὶ πιστεύεις Αὐτῷ;**
Πιστεύω Αὐτῷ ὡς Βασιλεῖ καὶ Θεῷ.

Godparents: do call your Godchildren and arrange for you and your Godchildren to come to church that day and receive the Body and Blood of Christ together. Godchildren: call your Godparents and invite them to come to church with you on this special day, as we prepare to commemorate the events of Holy Week—the betrayal, Crucifixion, death, burial and Resurrection of our Lord God and Savior. At the conclusion of the Liturgy, we are all invited to break bread together in our fellowship hall. The meal is the offering of the Cathedral's Stewardship Committee.

**The resurrection of the
dead is the Christian's trust.
By it we are believers.
Tertullian, On the
Resurrection**

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



Honoring Those Who Serve:

Ted Leventis, John Panomitros and Annette Chiappari; April 30 Luncheon to Benefit Building Fund

On Sunday, April 30, the Cathedral will host a luncheon honoring Ted Leventis, John Panomitros and Annette Chiappari. The luncheon, to be catered by Angelo Koutoulas of Chick 'n Coop, will take place following the Divine Liturgy. With a carved roast beef station and all the trimmings, the meal, fit for a king, will honor three of the Cathedral's most dedicated workers.

Ted Leventis, who currently serves as a Cathedral chanter, has served as master chef, among other things. For years, he catered makaries for the Ladies Philoptochos, as a volunteer, and is still involved in food preparation for the annual food festival, his specialty being bell peppers. As for chanting, Ted reports for duty every Sunday, and virtually every weekday holy day service. When it comes to food and to chanting, Ted always accommodates; he never says no. He's never been heard to say he's tired, or that he can't do something. Indeed, Ted exemplifies the best in what it means to be a volunteer. Ted is married to Angie Leventis, former President of the Ladies Philoptochos, and is father to Kathy Truog and Allyson Montgomery. He is the proud grandfather of Chloe and Zachary Montgomery and Nicole and Alexander Truog.

John Panomitros, who currently serves as Annunciation's "head sous-chef," has assisted in the kitchen in every capacity imaginable. He is especially present throughout food preparation for the Festival, the Crab Feed, and other parish functions. As long as anyone can remember, John's "baby" has been the souvlaki, the preparation and cooking of which he oversees, along with a very dedicated group of volunteers. Cooking aside, John is a devoted churchman, present at virtually every Sunday or weekday worship service, living an exemplary life—an inspiration to family, friends, and fellow parishioners alike. Likewise, John exemplifies the best in what it means to be a volunteer. John is married to Helen Panomitros. He is father to Eugenia Gardner and Demetra Salles, and proud grandfather of Yiannaki and Katerina Gardner, and Vasiliki, Eleni and Zoe Salles.

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The Annunciation Cathedral invites you to a luncheon

“Honoring Those Who Serve” Ted Leventis, John Panomitros & Annette Chiappari to Benefit the Building Fund

Sunday, April 30, 2017
following the Divine Liturgy



Luncheon catered by Angelo Koutoulas of Chick 'n Coop
will include a carved roast beef station with all the trimmings

PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE BY APRIL 24, 2017

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

NAME _____ TELEPHONE No. _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE RESERVE _____ ADULT @ \$35 AND _____ CHILDREN AGE 12 YEARS AND UNDER @ \$15

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____

TO PAY BY CREDIT CARD OR MAKE A DONATION TO THE LUNCHEON, PLEASE VISIT WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG

I AM UNABLE TO ATTEND AND WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO BUILDING FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL THE CATHEDRAL AT (415) 864-8000

OR CONTACT ANGIE LEVENTIS ~ ALEVENTIS3@COMCAST.NET

The United Greek Orthodox Community of San Francisco, The Annunciation is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) religious corporation.
All monetary donations made to it are fully tax-deductible, to the extent allowed by law.

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Annette Chiappari, who has “forever” served as Sunday School teacher, is always involved in community life. For years, she has served as a member of the Board of Elections and collects names for the annual Christmas card appeal. Besides serving as an officer in the Daughters of Penelope, Annette is involved with the Cathedral Philoptochos. She is found everywhere. With her quiet demeanor, she is always in church on Sunday, always at every parish event, in the forefront of every community activity. Annette exemplifies the best in what it means to be a volunteer. Annette is married to Philip Chiappari. She is mother to Kathy Saucedo, Virginia Harwell, James Chiappari, and Christine Gatewood, grandmother to Jennifer, Kenneth, Yvonne, Michael, Chris, Anthony, and Steven and great-grandmother to Logan and Avelyn.

In their “former” lives, Ted and John were restaurateurs. Ted owned the Plaza Coffee Shop in San Francisco and John and Helen owned the Shop in Novato. Annette worked for San Francisco International Airport, in technology.

At their request, the April 30 luncheon is being held to benefit the Building Fund. The donation for the luncheon is \$35 per person (\$15 for children 12 and under), and reservations are required, so that we may be able to accommodate everyone. For reservations, please use the form below.



Sunday OIKOS Lecture Series News

Oikos Lecture Series: Adult Education
News: Great Things Happening!

We began our Lecture series in January this year with a talk by Dr. Katina Kostoulas, a clinical psychologist and member of our Parish Council, and head of OIKOS, on The Role of the Family in the Spiritual Development of Children. Meanwhile, we’ve met to finalize the program for the year.

On Sunday March 12, immediately following Church, during the coffee hour, we heard from a group of educators, headed by Dr. Barbara Karvelis, on the group’s experiences

working with Syrian and other refugees in Lesbos Greece. The other members of team, two of whom were present and also spoke, include: Dr. Cecilia Wambach, Dr. Carolie Sly, Michele Cobble, and Lydia Stack. A few months ago, His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew visited Lesbos and the refugee camps there, together with Pope Francis and Greek Archbishop Ieronymos. At the conclusion of what was a very moving presentation, Father Stephen expressed that, together with the Philoptochos and other parish groups, as Young Adults and GOYA, the Cathedral “adopt” a school on Lesbos, primarily to assist with the procurement of needed teaching resources. In this regard, we are continuing to dialogue with Dr. Wambach and those involved with this project, and discuss ways and means with Ambassador Dimitrios Xenitellis, who is a native of Lesbos, and the Greek Ministry of Education and, of course, receive the blessings of our Metropolitan Gerasimos. Without wavering, His Eminence gave us his blessings as we proceed. When the Is are dotted and the Ts crossed, we will, of course, let you in on the details. Suffice it to say, we believe we would be the first parish in our Archdiocese to be making such a connection, i.e. “adopting” a school. All this coming about because of our OIKOS lecture series program!

Looking ahead, on April 9th, Dr. Martha Klironomos, a professor of Literature and past Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University, will present a lecture and slide presentation of her work. The title of Prof. Klironomos’ April 9 talk is “Bloomsbury Travelers to Greece and the Mediterranean”. The talk explores how members of the Bloomsbury Group travelled to Greece, Italy and the Mediterranean, and how their travels inspired the integration of Byzantine motifs into their art. She will focus on 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, Prof. Klironomos will also show a few slides of public buildings in England that also were inspired by Byzantine architectural aesthetics and prototypes.

Prof. Martha Klironomos (PhD, Ohio State University, 1993) is Professor of English and Modern Greek Studies at San Francisco State University where she has been teaching courses in Modern Greek Studies, Comparative and English literatures since 1996. She directed the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at San Francisco State University from 1996 to 2015. She previously held an appointment as Assistant Professor of Modern Greek at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec from 1994-1996 and was a Canada Council Postdoctoral Fellow at the Seferis Chair at Harvard University from 1993-1994. She is currently working on a book on the Greek Nobel Prize-winning poet George Seferis for a series on Classical Reception in 20th Century Literature for Bloomsbury Academic Press in the UK. She, along with Prof. Yiorgos Anagnostou at Ohio State University, are co-founding a new, peer-reviewed, journal in

Greek American Studies entitled “Ergon: Greek/ American Arts and Letters,” which will come out at the end of 2017, funded with generous support from Ohio State University and the Modern Greek Studies Association. It will feature articles on Greek American literature, history, immigration, book reviews on new titles in the field, reviews on museum exhibits, and serve as a venue for newly published works by Greek American writers and photographers.

In the Fall of 2017, Professor George Kordis, the iconographer who will write the icons for our new Cathedral will share after Divine Liturgy in the same format over an informal luncheon, his thoughts on the icon of the Annunciation and a brief question and answer period will follow his presentation. Our hope is that a Socratic dialogue between the presenters and the parishioners at all events will take place. The exact date for this event is to be determined and will be dependent on Dr. Kordis’ travel schedule.

Our OIKOS committee are hoping, God willing, to self-publish the talks to be presented and presented so far in a publication called either OIKOS or Annunciation Press. We plan to sell this publication online on the Church web site and in our bookstore. And any proceeds will go to the Cathedral Building Fund. I would also like to publish in this collection three homilies—one from Father Stephen one from Father Niko, and one from Father Tom, who have served as our clergy during the rebuilding of our Cathedral, if they are willing to submit one.

Our goal in this adult education series is to provide interesting talks by people within our Orthodox Christian Community and from the Larger Orthodox Community on Spiritual, Educational and Cultural Topics.

So far, we have had talks on parenting, the Theology of St. Maximos the Confessor, the Prayer Rope, as well as Byzantine Chanting. The lectures are about 20 to 30 minutes long with about 20 minutes for dialogue form the participants with the presenter and each other.

**Christ is risen from the
dead; by death he has
trampled upon death,
and he has granted life
to those in the graves.**

Introduction to Orthodoxy

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.

More on Social Justice Committee (Calling Young Adults)

As we mentioned in the last two issues of the *Herald*, the Cathedral is in the process of forming a Social Justice Committees, so called because this is the name given to similar committees which exist in area churches and temples. We know the title is a little offstanding or reminiscent of movements which emerged in the 60s, often with religious fervor. And, so, the Orthodox Church does not seem the likely place for pursuits like this. Yet, since its inception, the Church has always championed justice. Does not the Book of Proverbs note, "the righteous care about justice for the poor..." (Proverbs 29:7)? Does not John Chrysostom, throughout his prolific writings, emphasize that we are the ones who are actually wounded when social injustice rears its head against the poor? (See "Saint John Chrysostom and Social Justice" by Joel Cassady, <http://digitalcommons.csbsju.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1055&context=obsculta>. Social justice, then, is at the heart of the Faith. Reference has been made in the articles which appeared in the last two issues of the *Herald* to the initiatives of the Ecumenical Patriarchate with respect to the protection of the environment. In the words of His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew: "the Church cannot be solely interested in the salvation of the soul, but is deeply concerned with the transformation of God's entire creation. Therefore, what is a threat to nature is also a threat to humankind; just as what is for the preservation of the planet is for the salvation of the whole world." This a second reason for the formation of a Social Justice committee at the Cathedral: it enables the voice of the Orthodox Church to be heard.

As Father Stephen has noted, "We can no longer live as isolated entities. It is time for Annunciation Cathedral to take its place among those congregations, addressing Social Justice issues from an Orthodox Christian point of view." A meeting is planned, during April, with Dr. Elena Lingas, who has offered to chair the committee, Father Stephen, and members of those who head Social Justice committees of area congregations. If you are interested in being a part of this undertaking, please let us hear from you. We would like to bring together a group of at least ten people and get going. Young Adults: we especially address these thoughts to you and invite your involvement.

**The angels in heaven praise
your Resurrection, Christ
our Savior. Make us here
on earth worthy, with pure
hearts, to glorify you.
Paschal processional hymn**



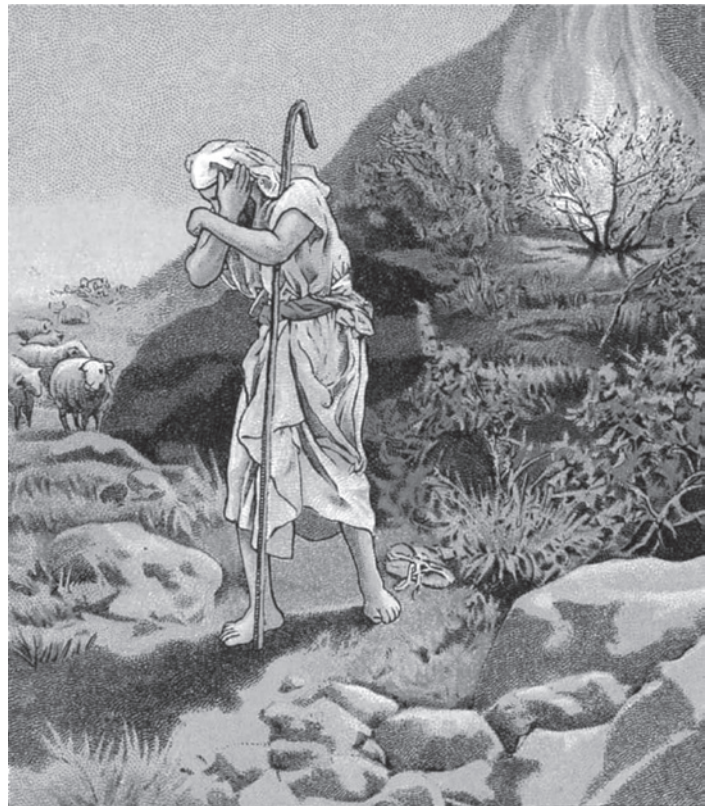
In the building of the medieval Cathedrals, where much of the material was stone, stonemasons and stonecutters could be seen everywhere. The above photo was taken recently of the interior of the new Cathedral. It shows workers cutting the cast stone that is being placed around the perimeter of the church. In addition to the cast stone wainscoting and window sills, there will be cast stone columns throughout the interior, as well as the exterior of the building. The capitals will feature fourth century crosses. These are still visible in what remains of the Theodosian (4th c.) Hagia Sophia in Constantinople.

Building Update

So, What's Happening?

The rains, which held up our building project for about three months, have now subsided, enabling us to continue. For one, the connection with the sewer drains is now complete. This has enabled us to go ahead to complete the elevator machine room and lobbies, which, in turn, will allow us to install the elevator, bringing us a step closer to utilizing the garage. Meanwhile, the entrenchment drain is

being constructed, the deck is being waterproofed, and cast stone is being placed around the perimeter of the church. Then comes the courtyard fountain. We've identified mosaics that we would like to install in the fountain. These come to us from the 5th century baptismal fountain at Stobi (see the illustration below). Following this, are the pavers on the floor surfaces, the stone columns on the building, the temporary doors on the building, the light fixtures and the building and, eventually, the planting of flowers and shrubs. Now, the area in front of the building will not be finished until after we have completed the interior. This is so as not to damage the steps and stonework from the equipment and scaffolding that will be brought in to put up the studs, build up the walls, and install lighting and furnishings. And, of course, all this will depend upon funding. In a word, we have \$4 million and 2 years' worth of work to go. And, so, fund raising will resume in earnest. One aspect of our fundraising strategy will be the development of a "needs list." A printed booklet, along with a pdf will be produced which will offer any number of donation opportunities, ranging from icons to candle stands, from sacristy and vestry furnishings, to the pulpit, chanters stands, and bishop's throne(s). We've reached a very exciting time in the rebuilding, as people are ready to have their donations go to identifiable items. Down the road, our children and grandchildren will be able to say, "My parents (grandparents) donated this or that." As our Cathedral takes its place among the great houses of worship in the City. So, what's happening? The Cathedral is happening. And, with it, a great future for the expression and practice of our Greek Orthodox faith and culture, in the very heart of San Francisco!



A rendering of Moses before the Burning Bush. We have secured clippings of the Burning Bush, now enclosed within the Monastery on Mt. Sinai, and look forward to planting them in the Cathedral's Biblical Garden.

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.

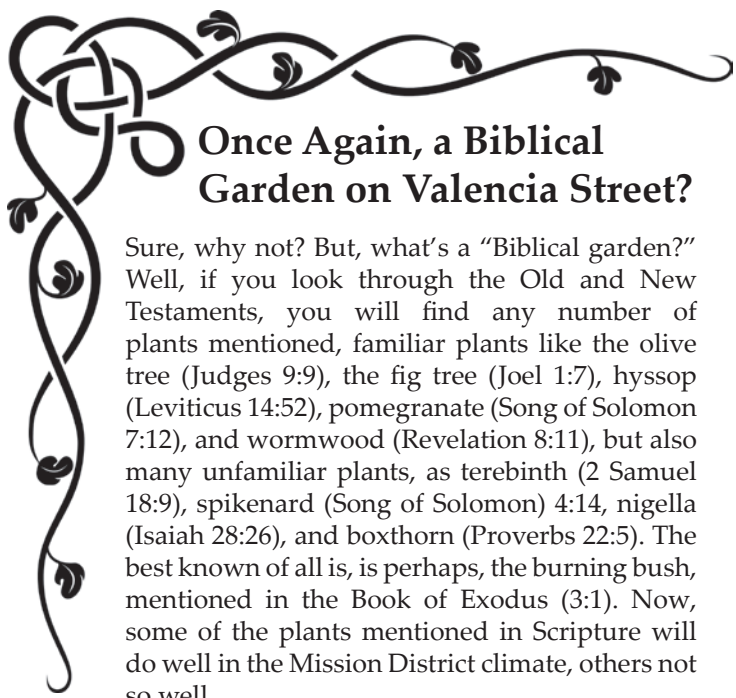
see chart on next page



The 5th century mosaics from Stobi include any number of birds and animals, along with decorative elements. Taken from the Book of Genesis, the incorporation of birds and animals in fountain mosaics stress the theological understanding of the fountain as the place of the re-creation of paradise, which is now made possible with the coming of Christ. Note that the week after Pascha is often called the "week of the new creation." Just as God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh, the Son of God rose from the dead on the first day of the week and, for the next six days, restores creation.



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



Once Again, 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, 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?"

Parking during Construction (90 days and counting-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.

Come, receive light from the unwaning Light, and glorify Christ, Who is risen from the dead.

The priest intones this as he gives the light to be distributed at the Paschal service

Everyone, it seems, who comes to meet with His Eminence or otherwise hold a meeting in the Cathedral's facilities, expresses the wish to see the Cathedral from within. And why not? It is a magnificent structure, soaring, impressive. The only church being built in San Francisco amid the current building boom, second only to that which took place following the 1906 earthquake. Shown above are Thomaida Hudanish, Assistant Director of C.O.M.E. (Commission for Orthodox Missions & Evangelism), with His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos and members of the C.O.M.E. team.



A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2017, so far, is shaping up to be the highest in recent history. Hopefully, this trend continues throughout 2017. Currently, 225 of our 350 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), have sent in their 2017 Stewardship pledge, amounting to \$223,523 so far 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 \$845 (as compared to \$782 in 2013). So far, in 2017, it is closer to \$1,000. With this level of support, it looks like we will exceed our Stewardship goal of \$300,000. We thank you for your continued support, your love for the Lord and His people, and your unwavering dedication to the Annunciation Cathedral. God bless you.

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2013	2015	2016	2017	LAST MONTH/THIS MONTH
Number of Pledges	322	351	343	225	168/225
Pledged Dollars	\$251,670	\$299,637	\$289,989	\$223,523	\$167,448/223,523
Outstanding Balances 2017				\$100,634	\$86,594/100,634
Average Pledge	\$782.00	\$854.00	\$845	\$993.00	\$997/993
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above				91	72/91
Number of pledges between 601 and 999				23	19/23
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below				111	76/111
Number of individual 2016 pledges that have not pledged for 2017 to date				170	170/134

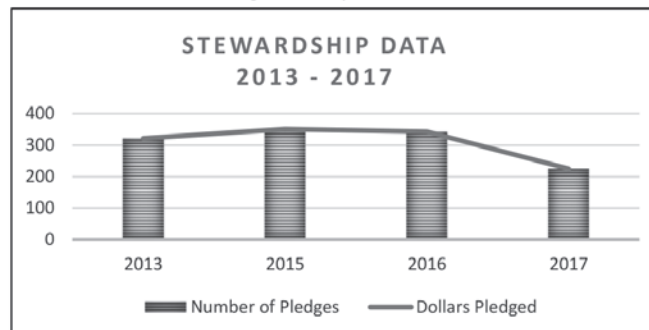
% Change TY/LY to Date

Number of Pledges	4%
Pledged Dollars	8%
Average Pledge	4%

All increases this reporting period

Unique 2017 Pledges :
(no pledge 2013 - 2016)

Period ending February 28, 2017





Young Adults leading our Community Kitchen



Some of our 50 guests at our March 21 Community Kitchen. One of our guests, and one of our young adults, each said: We wish this were every week, instead of just once a month.

Community Kitchen

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. 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.

Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified April 7

The Divine Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts on Friday, April 7 is, of course, open to everyone, but especially to Young Adults. It has become a tradition now that Young Adults come to church the last Friday of Great Lent, before Holy Week, to participate in this ancient Liturgy, receive Holy Communion, and, then, regroup at one of the area restaurants for a Lenten meal.

This year, there are two opportunities for Young Adults to gather during the Great Lent. One is Friday, March 24, for Great Vespers of the Annunciation and Salutations and the other is Friday, April 7, for the Presanctified Divine Liturgy. Services on the 24th begin at 7 p.m. and services on the 7th begin at 6:30 p.m. Dinner following the services on the 24th is being prepared by Angelo Koutoulas of Chick 'n Coop. It is his generous donation, as he celebrates his feast day on the 25th of March. The dinner following the services on the 7th is on each young adult, although the Cathedral has always subsidized the meal.

Would You Like to Learn How to Write an Icon?

An icon workshop will take place at the Annunciation Cathedral Monday, June 19 through Saturday, June 24, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. Iconographer Theodoros Papadopoulos is the visiting iconographer, who is coming at the invitation of Dr. Anthony Elite. If you are interested in participating in the workshop or if you would like additional information, please call Pat Preble, at 415 440-8565.



An icon of Saint Luke, writing an icon of the Theotokos.

NEW YORK NEW YORK

The Annunciation Cathedral's Ladies Philoptochos
invites you to our
58th Annual Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show
Saturday, May 13, 2017

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

12:00 Cocktail Reception ~ 12:30 Lunch

Donation: Adults \$55.00 ~ Children 12 and under \$25.00



PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION IN THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE BY MAY 5, 2017

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



Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos Easter Bake 2017

— PLACE YOUR ORDER NOW —

	<u>No. of Orders</u>	<u>Total</u>
Easter Bread @ \$16.00 each	_____	\$ _____
Koulourakia @ \$8.00 per Dozen	_____	\$ _____
Red Colored Eggs @ \$7.00 per Dozen	_____	\$ _____
TOTAL Amount of Order		\$ _____

NAME _____ TEL NO. _____

Your order will be ready for pick up on Friday, April 14, (10:00am to 3:00pm only)
and Saturday, April 15, (10:00am to 12:00pm only).

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

DEADLINE TO PLACE ORDER IS SUNDAY APRIL 9, 2017

PHILOPTOCHOS



Check Received: _____

Amount: _____



It's not too early to start planning this year's Food Festival, which will take place on our grounds at 245 Valencia Street, September 22, 23 and 24. We are in need of General Chairmen for the Festival. The plan is that, unless we can identify a Chairman or Chairmen, the Parish Council as a whole will head this year's Festival.

Mocas for Missions

Until recently, a program existed in the Metropolis called "Pennies 'n Prayers." Basically, it worked in this way: at various parish meetings, such as Parish Council, Philoptochos, Bible studies, there was a jar into which people put spare change. This was collected over time and forwarded to the (then) Diocese, (now) Metropolis in support of its local missions program. With this money, the church "planted" and supported mission parishes. As a result, 10% of the current parishes in the San Francisco Metropolis began as mission parishes. More recently, it was the Philoptochos that sponsored Pennies 'n Prayers and remitted the collections to the Metropolis. Now, however, the Pennies 'n Prayers program has become Mocas for Missions. The idea

is that, on occasion, one would give up ordering coffee out and, instead, would earmark, for missions, the money that would have been spent on the coffee. This concept caught on, especially among the younger crowd. In any case, a canister has been placed in the conference room next to the coffee maker, asking anyone who wishes to make a cup of coffee to donate \$1 for Mocas for Missions. In 2016, the Cathedral sent \$715. In 2017, let's make this \$1000. Mocas for Missions is a project of the Commission of Missions and Evangelism, Thomaida Hudanish, Assistant Director. C.O.M.E. is doing great things, as you've seen in more recent Heralds. Should you wish to contact Thomaida, her phone number is: 503 277-3928

Your resurrection, Christ Savior, has enlightened the entire world and recalled when you created everything. Almighty Lord, glory to you.

– Aposticha of Pascha.

A sacred Pascha has today shown forth to us. A new and holy Pascha, a mystic Pascha. An all-venerable Pascha; a Pascha which is Christ the Redeemer. A spotless Pascha; a great Pascha. A Pascha of the faithful; a Pascha which has opened to us the gates of Paradise. A Pascha which sanctifies the faithful.

– Aposticha of Pascha.

YOUTH NEWS



Metropolis Summer Camp

It's hardly summer, yet space for the 2017 Metropolis summer camp at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center is going is limited. For example, the July 9-15 session is sold out. 30 spots are left for session II, July 16-22, and 38 spots are left for session III, July 23-29. Each session has a maximum capacity of 115 campers. Due to high demand, campers are limited to registering for only one session of camp. To reserve, please visit gosfyouth.org



Ionian Village Summer Camp

Ionian Village offers to programs. There is a summer camping program for young people grades 8 through 12 and a Spiritual Odyssey program, open to young adults ages 19 to 24. Both programs are in demand. Registration opens March 1st, so early application is encouraged. Please visit www.ionianvillage.org for information about the programs offered and for on-line application.



OYAA Basketball

Congratulates to all our basketball players, and thank you to our parents and our coaches. We had a wonderful season. Our Boys Middle School, coached by John Eliopoulos, and our Girls Middle School, coached by Deno Konstantinidis and Matia Kostakis, had an outstanding season, playing their games with promise and great sportsmanship. Our Boys Elementary team, meanwhile, coached by Deno Konstantinidis and Chris Kyriacou, won the playoffs on March 11 and participated in the championship game on March 12, losing to the much older Ascension team by just one point! In our eyes, our kids are all champions! Meanwhile, all players and coaches came to church on March 19 to present their playoffs trophy and to receive the congratulations of our entire community. Next week, we look forward to adding a Girls Elementary team.

Meanwhile, our high school and adult program has begun, with the first game played on March 19. For a complete schedule of games, please refer to www.oyaasportscentral.com.





DANCE GROUP NEWS

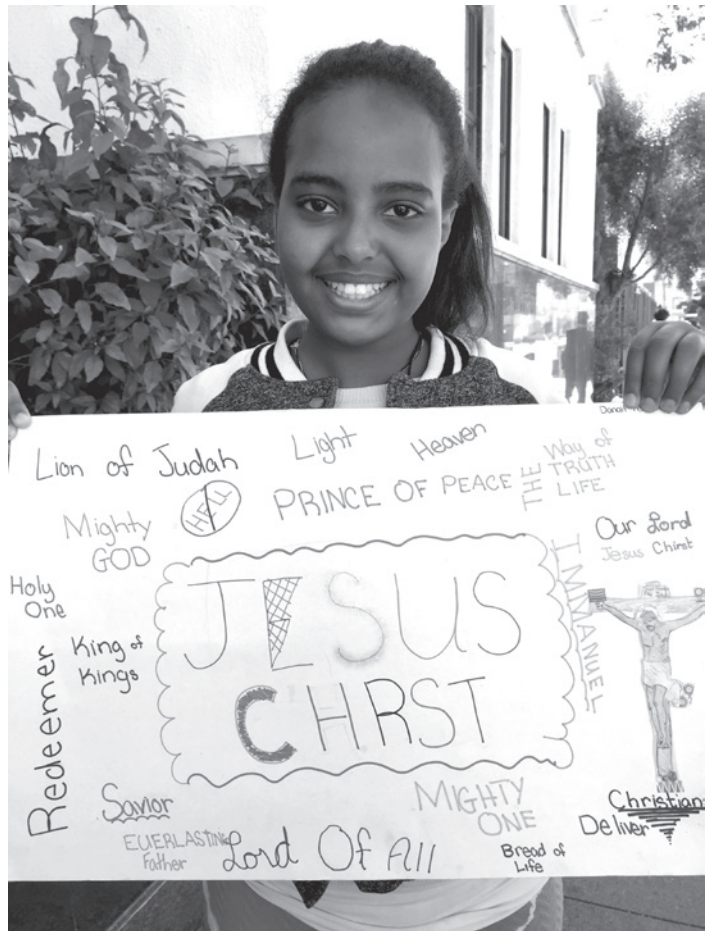
We are very proud of our 4 groups, consisting of 65 dancers, who represented the Cathedral at this year's annual Folk Dance Festival held in San Diego, CA from February 16-19th. Please feel free to look them up by their group names on YouTube so that you can see their performances for yourselves. As we move into the season of lent, the dance groups will be taking a break from practicing. The 2017-18 Greek folk dance season will be kicking off after Pascha. Dates will be announced in an upcoming issue of the Herald. 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 five years old to young adult. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com for more information.

To Mellon: Pre-K-1st grade (must be at least 5 years old in Fall 2017)
Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

Revmata: 2nd-4th grade in Fall 2017
Directed by Katerina Sarikakis and Eleni Taptelis

Thisavri: 5th-7th grade in Fall 2017
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 8th -12th grade in Fall 2017
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou



Not only the spoken word, but the written word as well.

Sunday School News

*"Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy."
~Saint Theophan the Recluse*

Kudos to our 5 Sunday School Students who participated in the parish Oratorical Festival on March 12th. All of them so eloquently expressed their feelings about their faith and identity as Greek Orthodox Christians to the entire congregation. Steven Monolakis will advance to the next level and participate in the District Oratorical Festival which is being held at the Church of the Holy Cross in Belmont on April 2nd. We wish Steven good luck and are very proud of all the participants and hope this experience provided them confidence in their spiritual growth.

Denait Fesehay – 6th Grade
Elizabeth Monolakis – 7th Grade
Maria Novo – 7th Grade
Nathan Tesfai – 7th Grade
Steven Monolakis – 9th Grade

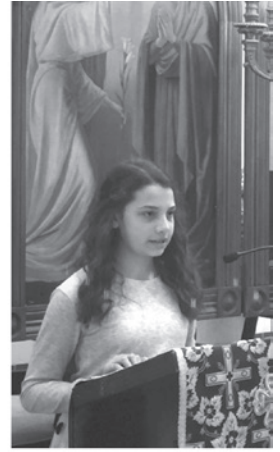
see more photos next page

'Like'
Annunciation
Cathedral Sunday
School!





Participants in this year's Oratorical Festival with Father Stephen



Our oratorical festival participants with co-directors Chrisoula and Brittany.

Godparent Sunday is on April 2nd

This is a special opportunity for everyone to invite their Godparents or Godchildren to come and worship together. Just before Holy Communion is offered, the traditional Baptismal vows will be recited.

Good Friday commemorates the moments leading up to and including the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. In observation of **Good Friday, on April 14th**, the Sunday School will hold its traditional TGI Pascha Program from **10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** The tentative 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. Lenten Luncheon
1:00 p.m. Church Service - Vespers of Apokathilosis (Christ's body being taken down from the Cross)

Sunday School Calendar April – June 2017

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 1 st -6 th
April 30	Music Lesson - Upper Grades 7 th -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

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."

Greek School News

Greek school held its annual March 25th event in the chapel, following services on the 25th. Children recited their poems, heralding the dual feast, first, the religious feast of the Annunciation and, then, the national feast of Greek Independence. Greek School continues until the first Saturday in June.

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 hearing from you and also to welcoming you.

Pangari Schedule

Serving on the pangari is a privilege, not only for Parish Council members, but for anyone who would like to be a part of the team of those who extend welcome to our services, especially for those who are visiting us from out of town and also people new to the community. The following teams, created so as to match up with their respective children, who will be serving in the altar on those days, consists of Parish Council members. Duties include the passing of the collection plate(s) and the seating of guests.

Team #1

Deno Konstantinidis
Philippos Athanasiades
Christopher Kyriacou (Stelios in Altar)
Dean Nicolacakis

Team #2 (Second Sunday Please)

Paul Sogotis (Panayioti & Yianni in Altar)
George Ambus (Christopher in Altar)
Katina Kostoulas

Team #3

Nicholas Rally (Demetri in Altar)
Nicholas Svetcoff
Chris Ramos

Team #4

Manoli Nuris (Mathew in Altar)
Vasiliki Moulas
George Gavros

Peter Manetas, Nick Kontonis, Michael Bagatelos, Gus Vellis also serve at the pangari, on a regular basis. Philoptchos members and other members of the community are invited to participate, as well. Please speak to Paul Sogotis, our "chief of protocol," and indicate your willingness to be a part of the pangari team.

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 April

- April 2 (Godparents Sunday) – Group 4
- April 9 (Palm Sunday morning) – Group 1
- April 12 (Holy Wednesday) – Group 2
- April 13 (Holy Thursday) – Group 3
- April 14 (Holy Friday) – Group 1
- April 15 (Holy Saturday-Pascha) – Groups 2 & 3
- April 23 (St. George)

Group 4

April 30 (Building Fund Luncheon)- Group 1

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.



Sunday of Orthodoxy at the Cathedral this year: Children carrying icons in the procession.

Sacraments

Condolences

The Cathedral extends condolences to James Thomas, its organist, upon the sudden falling asleep of his beloved wife, Diane, on March 13. Diane and Jim were married for almost 40 years.

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Godparents Sunday Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am			Church Basketball, 7 pm	Church Basketball, 7 pm	Presanctified Divine Liturgy, 7 pm	St. Lazarus Liturgy 10 am, Palm Tying
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Palm Sunday Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am OIKOS Lecture 12 noon Nymphios 7 pm	Holy Monday Nymphios 7 pm	Holy Tuesday Nymphios 7 pm	Church Basketball, 7 pm Holy Wednesday Holy Unction 7 pm	Church Basketball, 7 pm Holy Thursday Vesperal Liturgy 10 am 12 Gospels 7 pm	Holy Friday Great Hours 10 am Apokathylosis 1 pm Lamentations 7 pm	Holy Saturday Vesperal Liturgy 8 am Vigil 11 pm Pascha Service & Liturgy, midnight
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
Agape Vespers 11 am		Community Kitchen, 6:30 p.m.	Church Basketball, 7 pm	Church Basketball, 7 pm		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Parish Council 12:30 pm			Church Basketball, 7 pm	Church Basketball, 7 pm		
30						
Orthros 9 am Liturgy 10:30 am Sunday School 10:30 am Honoring those Who Serve Luncheon						

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
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Our children who participated in this year's FDF, together with their directors, shown with Bishop Apostolos and Father Stephen.