#### **ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL**

# HERALD



**JUNE 2023** 

245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 · (415) 864-8000 · WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG

### A Message from His Grace Bishop Ioannis

"Return to me, and I will return to you, so says the Lord Almighty." -Zechariah: Chapter 1, Verse 3

## Dear Parishioners and Friends of the Cathedral,

As we look back on our past year as a community, we can't help but see what a year of rejuvenation we've had. Finally free from all pandemic restrictions, we have come back roaring as a community. We have a vibrant new youth program in Elpida which has filled our church and religious education classrooms with children once again. Our dance program took FDF by storm by winning the illustrious Sweepstakes award for the first time in Cathedral history. Our basketball team as well won their league championship. Our Parish Council is making strides with renewed vision and proactive efforts.

But perhaps the most beautiful sight of all, was the astounding attendance we experienced during Holy Week this year. Specifically on Holy Friday Evening and Pascha, we welcomed hundreds of faithful to our Cathedral again at long last.

To think at various points during pandemic years that we wondered about the future of our community seems a distant memory now as we are back, booming with enthusiasm and renewed energy for our Faith and our church.

However, now that summer approaches, we will

experience our annual lull as many of us depart for well-deserved vacations locally, in Greece, or other destinations far from home.

We pray that the Lord keeps you safe as you travel and enjoy your summer respite. Yet we also pray that you keep your Cathedral and community in mind during your time away.

Therefore we ask that you prayerfully consider making a Summer Offering to keep efforts alive over these months until we pick back up in September with our Festival and all of our wonderful youth programs. Your support during the summer months will allow us to continue all of our works and efforts that we put forth in the Name of the Lord.

In Christ, His Grace Bishop Ioannis of Phocaea

### **Pentecost Sunday**



Sunday June 4th marks the allimportant Feast of Pentecost. Please join us for Divine Liturgy as we celebrate the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and what is widely regarded as the beginning of our very Church. Orthros begins at 9am followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:15am.

> Join us every Sunday for Orthros and Divine Liturgy Orthros begins at 9am followed by Divine Liturgy at 10:15am

#### Pascha Recap

What a joy it was to welcome hundreds of faithful during Holy Week and on Pascha. After three long years under restrictions it was wonderful to have our church full again!





Photos courtesy of Niko Rakos

Philoptochos Mothers Day Luncheon





**Foula Vasilogiorgis** Foula was born in 1949 to Evangelos Protopappas and Maria Diakakis in San Francisco, California. She has a brother and sister. Foula's parents were Greek immigrants whose father had come from the island of Kassos to the United States through Canada

in the late 1920's. He later returned to Greece to marry and bring Foula's mother back to the United States. Foula and her family have a deep history at the Annunciation Cathedral. She has been a part of various ministries, she attended Sunday School, Greek School, G.O.Y.A., YAL, singing in the choir, Greek Dancing, Parish Council, Secretary and Vice-President of Philoptochos, Chairman for the Food Festival, and Summer Camp. Foula is also a part of the Daughters of Penelope founded in 1929 here in San Francisco for many years serving as President, Vice-President as well as the District Governor. Foula married George Vasilogiorgis and they had two children, Mary and Dino. Her children were involved with various activities

in the church growing up. Foula also has a 12-year-old granddaughter Zoe. Foula worked in corporate America for many years and is presently working as the Administrative Assistant for the Metropolis of San Francisco.

**Maria Bissas** Maria Bissas was born in 1946 to Kostandinos and Chrisoula Koutoulas in the small town of Kandila, Tripoli. She was the 10th child of 12 siblings. Six boys and six girls.

In 1960 at the age of 14, she moved to Athens to work. In 1968 her eldest broth-







er Fani Koutoulas petitioned for her to come and join him in the United States. By that time ,she met Stavros Bissas, whom she married in 1969. Maria and Stavros moved in with Fani and his family in Daly City and a few months later they found their own apartment on Guerrero

Street in San Francisco. In 1971 they had their first child Despina and soon after bought a new house in The City where they welcomed their second child Panagioti and then their third child Chrisoula. In 1985, Stavros returned to Greece leaving Maria with 3 kids and a mortgage. She worked 6 days a week to support her family and always made sure that every Sunday they would put on their Sunday best, board the 14 Mission Bus and go to church where she would sing with her very distinctive and powerful voice. She literally worked her fingers to the bone and still continues to work. She is truly an unstoppable force and an incredible inspiration to those who know her. She always looks for opportunities to give back and help the church. Whether it be the festival, Easter, Christmas or any given Sunday, she is always there to give everything that she has for the good of the Annunciation Cathedral.

Irene Alahousou Vafiadis Irene Alahousou Vafiadis, oldest of 6 children was born in Kalymnos, Greece. She traveled to the United States in 1975 and married Stelios Vafiadis shortly thereafter. From their union two beautiful children were born, Nikolaos and Maria. Being an immigrant in the late 70's in San Francisco they found comfort, friendship, and community at the Annunciation Cathedral. This is where her children were baptized, made lifelong friendships, danced,

and attended Greek school. As a family, they made an effort to participate in all the activities that the church had to offer. Irene has always committed herself to serve God and the church in any way she could and always stepped up to the occasion. There are many words to describe this lovely lady, but the ones that come to mind are kind hearted, generous, empathetic, devoted, loyal and most of all strong. Her actions have always reflected, who she truly is and what she believes in.





### **Our Diamond**

And Now for our last little surprise in true Lady Whistledown Fashion.... The Diamond. In the Bridgerton series, Queen Charlotte, names a Diamond of the Season. The most sought-after lady in the Ton. We decided to take a different spin on naming our Diamond of the season. Beyond their modern representations of marriage and commitment, diamonds are known to symbolize faithfulness and purity. Therefore, we decided to select a special lady, who shines bright in our community.

Our diamond was born in Greece, 1 of 4 sisters. She came to the United States in 1961, and was married here, at the Annunciation Cathedral. Always volunteering her time, talents, and energy (and she has lots!) for the Philoptochos and Cathedral, as well as, for other San Francisco community groups, she is one dynamic lady. Married for 45 years to her sweet husband, and traveling the world together on countless adventures, she truly enjoys life! Her motto is "She likes to make people happy". Not only is she always smiling, but she is one fashionable lady, but I suppose that comes from being being a sylist for 20 years, to the most discerning customers, BRIDES.....

If you haven't figured out who she is yet, I am so very honored to introduce you to our 2023 Diamond, to join our mothers of the year, Despina Poulos.



# Mothers Day Luncheon - continued

This year's Philoptochos Mother's Day Luncheon and Fashion Show, held on Saturday, May 13, 2023, was absolutely fabulous, to echo the sentiments of the 200+ guests who attended. The event transported our guests back to old English times in Londontown, where the Bridgerton Family lives and the Royal family rules. From the gardenlike feel of our transformed hall to the Queen herself, our own Maria Allen, seated in her throne overseeing the event, her ladies in waiting by her side—Zoe Fanourgiakis, Pelagia Kratsas, Sophia Spachis, and Aristea Taptelis-our quests enjoyed a beautiful afternoon with us. The Bridgerton themed costumes, decorations, food, favors, and fashions enhanced the brilliant ambiance of the event. We were also treated to a beautiful vocal performance by Aristea Taptelis and lyrical dance performance by Sophia Spachis to popular songs from the Bridgerton series. A big thank you to all our beautiful models-adults, teens, and children, who were stunning walking down the runway!

The highlight of the event was proclaiming our 2023 Mothers of the Year—Maria Bissas, Irene Vafiadis, and Foula Vasilogiorgis, three very worthy honorees for their years of dedication and service. In addition, we crowned our first Diamond of the Year, Despina Poulos, for her commitment and service to the Cathedral and Philoptochos. Αξιες! Please find a short biography of each of our mothers, in addition to our introduction, including a short bio of our Diamond. Thank you to all who attended, supported, and donated to the event, and especially, to the amazing committee who worked so hard to make this outstanding event possible!

**2023 Committee:** Irene Kyriacou - Chair, Janis Petrou, Mariam Arsinoos, Vivian Curd, Mia Fanourgiakis, Kalliope Fousekis, Grace Koutoulas, Presvytera Aliki Kyriacou, Dina Kratsas, Alexia Kleinkorte, Lea Lyberopoulos, Liberty Nuris, Lea Papavasiliou, Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, Lea Papavasiliou, Penny Vardakastanis, Foula Vasilogiorgis, Meena Vellis





### **Philoptochos News**

Philoptochos hopes that the great feast of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ brought you love and strength and that Easter Sunday was memorable with family and friends.

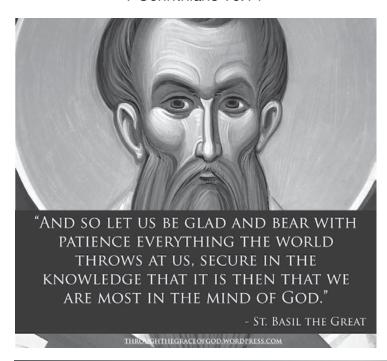
Our Easter bake sale of tsoureki and koulourakia was a huge success. We can't thank enough the talented group of men and women who worked to take the orders, mix the dough, bake, and package the bread and cookies for purchase and pick-up. The community support for this sale was wonderful, exceeding past years.

On Palm Sunday Philoptochos sponsored the fellowship coffee hour. Parishioners filled the hall and enjoyed the light lunch, each others company, taking their chances at the raffle drawing and browsing the "Bunny Boutique" for gifts. Thank you to Liberty Nuris who chaired the event and the many volunteers that ensured this day would be great.

All proceeds from the Easter bake, boutique and raffle will be going toward our charities which help those in need.

"Let all that you do, be done in love"

1 Corinthians 16:14



# Father's Day Brunch Honoring Chris Kyriacou

The Philoptochos is pleased to announce that it will be honoring Chris Kyriacou as Father of the Year at a Brunch on Sunday, June 18, 2023 following the Divine Liturgy.

All are welcome to celebrate Father's Day with us. A donation of \$20.00 per person and \$10.00 for children 12 and under is appreciated.

Reservation information to follow.



# Greek School

Greek School's Performing Arts class will be performing their final play of the 2022-2023 school year, Καλοκαιρινές  $\Delta$ ιακοπές Οι Ολύμπιοι Θεοί στα Μαχαίρια.

Join us on Saturday, June 3 at 11:15 am in the hall to see our students perform.

### **Calling All Graduates!**

As this school year comes to a close please send us information regarding your Middle School, High School, and College graduates so we can share their good news in the Herald! Please email info to Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org

# Greek Dance Annunciation Greek Dance Program Resumed Dance Practice in May!

Are you looking for an opportunity for you or your children to actively learn about Greek culture, including dances, songs as well as regional traditions in a fun, exciting and welcoming community? Then, our award-winning dance program is for you! No experience is necessary, and we accept dancers at all levels for each age category. We currently have four dance groups and will be adding a fifth dance group in the fall to accommodate more youth interested in joining. Our groups practice weekly on Sundays after church, with additional practices added in the winter to prepare for the annual Folk Dance Festival, FDF, held during Presidents' weekend in February.

It is a wonderful program where dancers make lifelong friendships, meet other Greek Orthodox youth from parishes all over the United States during FDF weekend, and compete in a friendly and supportive environment. In addition to competing at FDF, our dancers have other opportunities to perform, including at the Greek Independence Day celebration at Union Square in San Francisco, our festival this coming September, and more.

Rizes, consisting of dancers ages 7-9, is currently our youngest group and is directed by Penny Vardakastanis, Giana Papavasiliou and Kallie Lyberopoulos. For dancers ages 10-12, we have To Mellon, which is directed by Irene Kyriakou and Katerina Sarikakis.

Revmata consists of dancers ages 12-15 and is directed by Eleni Taptelis, Katerina Sarikakis, Stelios Kyriakou and Kosta Lyberopoulos. Our eldest group, Spithes, consists of dancers ages 16+, and is directed by Irene Kyriakou, Lea Lyberopoulos and Lea Papavasiliou.



**Rizes, To Mellon and Revmata** at this year's FDF Opening Ceremonies.



Rizes, our 7-9 year old group, performing on stage at this year's FDF.



**Revmata** performing at San Francisco's Union Square for this year's Greek Independence Day Celebration.

All four groups medaled this past FDF, with our eldest group, Spithes, taking home the Division I Sweepstakes award, To Mellon, first place in their category, and Revmata and Rizes coming home with the 4th place medal in their respective categories. We are very proud of them all and look forward to starting our newest group, which will consist of 4-6 year old dancers, who will be directed by Evgenia Fkiaras, Taia Konstantinidis.

We have continued practices during the month of May and will take a break for the summer before starting up again in September. If you are interested in joining, please contact the program at sfgreekdance@annunciation.org, or stick around after church to observe and/participate in the upcoming practices and meet the directors and dancers. You are welcome to come and try our program with no obligation. We look forward to welcoming new dancers (and friends) to our program! Opa!





Spithes performing on stage at this year's FDF. Opa!



**Spithes,** Sweepstakes winners, all-around first place out of all 4 categories in Division I!



Revmata, 4th place medal, Advanced Junior category.



**To Mellon,** 1st place medal, Advanced Primary category.



Rizes, 4th place medal, Primary category.

# **Elpida**

On Lazarus Saturday, Elpida hosted an afternoon of Lazarus Saturday Activities for our Annunciation Community. Children learned about the miracle of Lazarus, and even acted out the story in small groups with toilet paper mummies. We enjoyed feasting on Lazarakia ,making Anastasi Candles and folding palm crosses for Palm Sunday the next day. It was a wonderful community building event rooted in the Greek Orthodox Faith.

Elpida continued to bring our community together during Holy Week. Luminaries were available for purchase in "Loving Memory" of loved ones as well as "The Health of" members in our community. These luminaries started in the parking garage and "lit the path" to the Epitaphios. Holy Friday also highlighted over 15 young ladies in varying ages in beautiful white gowns and floral crowns as Myrrh Bearers. It has been quite some time since we have had that many young ladies participate in the moving Holy Friday service. In addition to the many young ladies who participated, many young men served in the altar for the first time. Everyone did a wonderful job.

Elpida wrapped up its curriculum ending the school year with lessons about Pentecost. Elpida will resume classes in the fall. Our first class will be on Sunday, September 10th. In addition to classes, Elpida will host another multip parish retreat on Saturday, October 14th at the Annunciation Cathedral. Information about registration will be sent out at the end of the summer.









#### 2023 MONTHLY MINISTRY SERIES



## **Let Your Light Shine**

#### 2023 Monthly Ministry Series

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco Stewardship Ministry invites you to the 2023 Monthly Ministry Series. Our topics will continue to highlight the outstanding ministries in our Metropolis that will benefit your parish as well as your personal and spiritual growth, deepen your understanding of true Christian stewardship, and provide valuable information and insight into our ministries and how you can continue to serve the Church through your time, talent and treasure.

Stay tuned for more information on these topics! Information will be sent out monthly with topics, presenters and registration details. All of these presentations, as well as an impressive library of stewardship and ministry resources can be found online at

https://sanfran.goarch.org/ministries/stewardship.

Questions? Please email: metropolis@sanfran.goarch.org,



# Save these dates! All on Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. Pacific

#### Monday, June 19

Engaging Parishioners through True Christian Stewardship – Time, Talents, and Treasures Ministry Host: Stewardship

#### Monday, July 17

Real Life: Parenting from the Heart Ministry Host: Family Wellness

#### Monday, August 21

The Anastasimatarion - the importance of Saturday Vespers and Sunday Orthros in our lives Ministry Host: Church Music

#### Monday, September 18

Icons, Iconography, and Iconographers Ministry Host: Christian Education

#### Monday, October 16

Engaging our Youth and Young
Adults in our post-COVID Era
Ministry Host: Youth and Young Adults

#### Monday, November 20

Being the Light and Lighthouse for True Christian Stewardship Ministry Host: Stewardship

#### Monday, December 18

Developing and Engaging...Creating your Parish Plan for the New Year Ministry Host: Orthodox Parish Leadership

# Large Marble Donation to Cathedral

We would like to thank Dimitri Charalambos for his generous marble donation to our new Cathedral building. Dimitri donated 3,200 square feet of "Stellar White" marble to us which will be one day used to create our Solea in the new Cathedral. Thank you Dimitri!



## **Our Parish Update:**

We are very excited to report great things happening at Annunciation Cathedral!

- We purchased a New Boiler to heat our building!! Installed and ready for that summer fog!
- Our Ministries are returning with great enthusiasm.
   Attendance is great and look for updates in this Herald and future publications!

You can always see up to date photos and information on our Website, Facebook, and Instagram too!!

 Have you noticed our New Look in our Chapel and Cry Room??

With the help of Bishop loannis, we have a beautiful presentation of Icons!



# Andrew Vellis to be Camp Counselor at Ionian Village this Summer

Andrew Vellis is from Burlingame, California and attends Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco. In 2019, Andrew attended Ionian Village as a camper. It was the best summer of his life and is excited to come back now as a counselor. Andrew brings enthusiasm and lightheartedness to make IV a great experience for campers just like his counselors did.

# Men's Fellowship – Save the Date

Our next gathering of our Men's Fellowship group will take place on Thursday June 1st. We will once again have a barbeque in the church courtyard with social/cocktail hour beginning at 5:30 PM. Dinner and program will follow at approximately 7:00 PM. This will be our last meeting before taking a break for the summer. If you are interested in joining this new and growing ministry of our church, please contact Jim Rakos at jim.rakos@annunciation.org to RSVP.

ope is the confidence that, despite all darkness and sin, the light of the loving forgiveness of God is upon us to do with us and for us what we ourselves cannot do.

Our soul waits for the Lord; He is our help and shield. Yes our hearts are glad in Him, because we trust in His holy name. Let Your steadfast love, O Lord be upon us, even as we hope in You (Psalms: Chapter 33, Verses 20–22).

### Pledged Stewards • 2023

Let 2023 be the year we renew our relationship with God and our Church. Please set aside some time this week.

Aleck, Demetria Aleck, Patricia Allen, Maria & Andrew Ambus, Anthony & Zetta Ambus, Dr. George & Tessa Arsinoos, Mariam Asimos, Chrisula Athanasiades, Philip & Diala Bagatelos, Karen Bagatelos, Margarita Bagatelos, Michael Bagatelos, Peter A. Banks, Bradley Barlas, Constantine Bazgan, George Benevity Taptelis, Tom & Helen Bissas, Maria Boutiette, Mary Ann & Andrew Bozionelos, Jim & Florika Cazanis, Katerina & Peter Cheong, Bryan Cocoles, Jim & Luba Contos, Christopher Cruz, John Curd, Vivian & John Dakis, Mrs. Elli Davies, Ethel Dekaristos, Evangelos Dekaristos, George & Niki Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie Destein, Patricia Dhawan, Anirudh & Brittany Drogitis, Joanne
Economides, Nicholas & Janine
Efstratis, Jenny, Greg
Eliopoulos, Mr. John Eliopoulos, Louie Elite, Dr. Anthony Fanourgiakis, Mike & Mia Farmas, Demitra Fkiaras, Evgenia Fonti, George & Sophia Fotenos, Mr. James F. Fousekis, Mr. & Mrs. Vlasis and Kalliope Fragakis, Charalambos & Marianthe Franco, Mrs. Helen Garibaldi, David & Kathie Garibaldi, Nicole & Michael Gavallos, Victor D Gazulis, Theodore & Christine Georges, Alexander C. W. Georgiadis, John & Sophia Glafkides, Mr. & Mrs. Constantine Grampsas, Bonnie Grampsas, Bornie Haginicols, Leo & Tiffany Haralabopoulos, Peter Haralambopoulos, Constantine & Eleftheria Haras, Panagiota Hernandez, Mr. Jose & Sofia Kleftogionne Holloway, Vicki Eleni Kakos, Katherine Kallas, Mrs. Louise Kalligeros, George Karas, Bill

Karas, Chris

Karas, Kathy Karsant, Dr. & Mrs. Constantine Kasolas, Michael & Stella Kastoras, Athanasios & Niki Katsanis, Gari Kavalaris, James & Joanne Kleinekorte, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Kokalis, Despina Nick Konstantinidis, Deno C. & Bella Konstantinidis, Taia Kontonis, Mr. & Mrs. Nick Kosaris, Paul & Irene Kottas, Angelos Kouropoulos, Georgia Koutoulas, Angelo & Victoria Koutoulas, Dina Koutoulas, Panagiota Koutoulas, Pete & Voula Kozak, Alexandros & Erin Peterson Kratsas, John Kyriacou, Mr. & Mrs. Chris Kyriacou, Rev. Stephen & Aliki Lampros, Mr. John & Magda Lawrence, Effie & Stephen Leventis, Angie & Theodore Lyberopoulos, Bob & Lea Makras, Effie Makras, Elaine Makras, Sophie Makras, Thalia Manetas, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Mares, Kathryn Markanton, Helen Mastrokyriakos, Christos & Melisa Mastrokyriakos, Nikolaos & Anna Mattis, Mr. & Mrs. George Mavrakakis, Mary Mavroudis, Aglaia Mavroudis, Tasso & Natalia McKnight, Nektarios L. Melitas, Irene Mellos, Faye & Michael Holland Misthos, Michael & Christina Moniodis, Stamatios Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Monte Morales, Mrs. Helen Morearty, Margaret Fotinos Moulas, Mrs. Vasiliki Moulas, Vicky A. Mouroufas, Tula Nager, Perri Nashawati, Bashar & Roud Nicolacakis, Maria & Dean Nicolas, Helen Nuris, Manoli Nuris, Matthew Nuris, Thomas & Liberty Oliver, Christopher & Elena Ossipoff, Alexander & Lula Panagiotopoulos, Anton & Sotiria Panagiotopoulos, Magdalini Panagotacos, Dr. Peter Panomitros, John & Helen Pantages, Mr. & Mrs. Peter Papadakis, Spiros & Georgia
Papageorge, Mr. and Mrs.
Petros & Nicole
Papageorgiou, Dr. Sophia
Papingu, Robert & Alma Pappis, Loula Parashis, Marion Patropulos, Joan Pavlakos, Rose Petrou, Janis G.

Pope, Antoinette Poulakidas, Dean Poulakidas, Jennifer Poulakidas, Sakee & Irene Poulos, Despina Rakos, Alexis 1 Rakos, Anastasia Rakos, Jim & Kelly Rakos, Nicholas Ramos, Christopher Rangaves, Kry
Rangaves, Mr. & Mrs. George
Raptis, Evangelia
Razis, Mrs. Harkia Roberts, Ms. Erica Roumeliotes, Valerie Sarikakis, Emilia Sarikakis, Ellilla Sarikakis, Mr. & Mrs. Mike Serveta, Vasiliki (Vicky) Shu Yeung & Kotsonis, Dr. Peter Siouris, Michele Y. Skinas, Stavroula & Kosmas Sogotis, Mrs. Rose Sogotis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Spachis, Mike & Vicky Stamatopoulos, Anna Stathopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Marios Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Peter C. Tamaras, Joy Tarlson, Mr. & Mrs. Nick G. Thomas, Mr. James
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If we mistakenly left your name off the stewardship roster, please contact the church office. This list is through May 15, 2023. God Bless You!

Stewardship goal - 325

Turn in your pledge card to the church or pay on the website directly via paypal or credit card. www.annunciation.org

Pezo, Lester & Chrisoula

Polyzos, Maria & Jason

Piccinini, Pamela

Pope, Agalia

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