



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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DECEMBER 2015

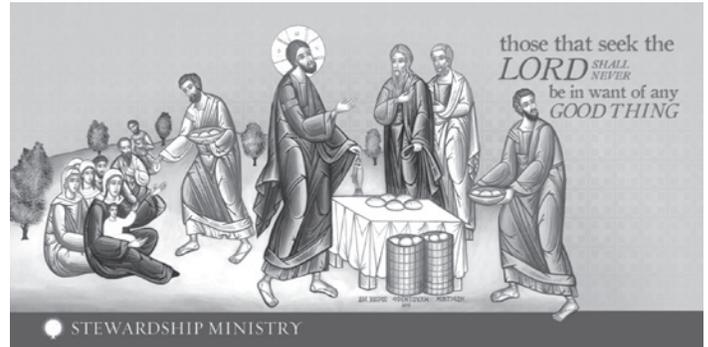
December 6 is Stewardship Sunday

The Cathedral is getting ready to launch its 2016 Stewardship program. Your Stewardship Committee has adopted the theme of the 34th Psalm (33rd LXX), verse 10, which says "...those that seek the Lord shall never be in want of any good thing..." In other words, the Lord makes sure all our needs are met, as we seek the Lord. And God meets our needs, not solely for our own use, but also so that we may share them with others. Parents understand this, as they seek to provide for their families. All of us understand this, as we are called to provide for the Church. The Church, in turn, edifies us and ennobles us, because it is in the Church and through the Church that we meet Christ, especially as we receive the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist. We can pray by ourselves, for sure. But, we can only receive Holy Communion by praying together, as the Church.

Stewardship, therefore, (the sharing of our time, our talent, and our treasure, i.e. "every good thing"), is a sacred engagement. That's why we make such a big deal about it. That's why we make every effort, year after year, to gather up all our brothers and sisters who are baptized into Christ, to commit to support the work of the Church.

We sent out 2016 Stewardship materials to you on November 1; everyone should have received them by now. The packet includes a letter, signed by Father and by Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee chair, a brochure which further explains stewardship, a 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card (actually, a tear off, found at the bottom of the letter), and a return envelope. **Here's what we would like you to do.** We would like you to read through the material, complete your 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card, put it in the envelope provided, and bring it with you to church on Sunday, December 6. Sunday, December 6 has been designated "Stewardship Sunday." At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will celebrate a special *Artoklasia* (the service of the Five Loaves). Afterwards, Parish Council members will circulate special baskets, into which we are asking you to deposit your 2016 Stewardship Pledge Card. By performing this symbolic act, you are affirming that you are in support of the work of the Church, which includes its ministries and its outreach. Then, we will convene in our Korinthias Hall for lunch, as we celebrate Stewardship Sunday. A special banner has been ordered, to be affixed over the entry door, reminding us of the theme of our 2016 Stewardship work, "...those that seek the Lord shall never be in want of any good thing."

If you have any questions, we invite you to ask Father or Gus, or call the Cathedral office, at 415 864-8000. May God bless you all, and may God bless this sacred community of the Annunciation Cathedral.



2015 Community Christmas Card

Annette Chiappari, Kalliope Fousekis, and Annamarie Balian have been on hand since October 25, collecting names for this year's Christmas Card. No doubt, you will want to be listed, as the community extends greetings and best wishes to one another on the occasion of Christmas and the New Year. The donation is, as it has been for years, \$25. The deadline for inclusion on the Card is December 6.



View from the new choir loft

People ask: Will there be Another Steel Signing?

As you can see, construction of our new cathedral continues beautifully! Parishioners are still asking if we will ever hold another steel signing. Currently, we are thinking of holding another signing event as soon as the exterior is constructed, that is, when our present contract with McNely has been completed, just before we begin to work on the interior. For, we would like as many people as possible to come and see and feel what is to come and to give glory to God, who makes all things new.

WHAT DOES MY GIFT TO THE BUILDING FUND REALLY AMOUNT TO OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD?

Below are some different ways to look at how you can make a meaningful gift.

AMOUNT	PER YEAR OVER 5 YEARS	PER MONTH OVER 5 YEARS	PER DAY OVER 5 YEARS	2 PERSON FAMILY-PER DAY (EACH)	3 PERSON FAMILY-PER DAY (EACH)	4 PERSON FAMILY-PER DAY (EACH)
\$100,000	\$20,000	\$1,666.00	\$54.80	\$27.40	\$18.26	\$13.70
\$50,000	\$10,000	\$833.00	\$27.40	\$13.70	\$9.13	\$6.85
\$30,000	\$6,000	\$500.00	\$16.43	\$8.22	\$5.48	\$4.10
\$25,000	\$5,000	\$416.00	\$13.70	\$6.85	\$4.56	\$3.42
\$20,000	\$4,000	\$333.33	\$10.95	\$5.49	\$3.65	\$2.74
\$15,000	\$3,000	\$250.00	\$8.22	\$4.11	\$2.74	\$2.05
\$10,000	\$2,000	\$166.66	\$5.47	\$2.75	\$1.82	\$1.36



From the exterior, a little like the old Annunciation! Notice the windows and the central peak. Even the towers, for those who remember the bell towers before they were taken down in the 60s. In any case, the exterior is thoroughly Byzantine. It is typical of Orthodox churches built between the 4th and 9th centuries. The interior is something else. Like Orthodox worship itself, it must be experienced.

Gift Giving to the Capital Campaign

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

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

Parking During Construction

Parking for up to 70 cars is available in the lot behind the Cathedral, at 334 14th Street and on the street. Stewards of the Cathedral are charged only \$5 to park, by showing their; the Cathedral will pay \$7 of the parking cost for Stewards. To pick up a parking pass or to discuss your stewardship, please call the Cathedral office, at 415 864-8000. Street parking is also available on Sundays, especially along the 217' construction zone in front of the Cathedral. For your convenience, an attendant will be on hand each Sunday to monitor the drop off zone and direct parking to the Zenanli 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.

8 Run for Parish Council

As reported to the Parish Assembly on November 22, there are 8 people running for Parish Council. These are: **Philippos Athanasiades, Deno C. Konstantinides, Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., Angie Leventis, Thomas A. Nuris, Nicholas Svetcoff, George V. Vlahos and James D. Vorrises.** Elections will take place on Sunday, December 13, following the Divine Liturgy. Eight (8) people will be elected to a two-year term.

In other Parish Assembly news, the November 22 assembly elected its chair, passed the minutes of May 17, heard the treasurer's report and also reports on stewardship, youth, and the 2015 festival (note: the 2016 festival will take place September 16, 17, 18). The Assembly also heard details concerning the Capital Campaign and the rebuilding of the Cathedral. On the one hand, we exceeded expectations. We have been able to raise, so far, \$6,117,000. Of this, \$990,000 is still outstanding. We are now

borrowing against our \$6 million line of credit from Five Star Bank. So far, we have borrowed \$1 million, and are paying back interest at \$3300. a month. It behooves us to collect as much as possible from those with outstanding balances, so as to reduce our borrowing from the Bank. The plan is for us to complete the exterior of the building and have a fully operational garage, which will also supply the income needed to pay back the Bank and also generate funds for completion of the interior. The Assembly then heard a call for involvement of people from all walks of parish life toward what Father Stephen called articulation of a vision for the Annunciation Cathedral Community. A number of people signed up to help develop this "roadmap" for the future betterment of our parish. Finally, a Board of Auditors was elected, as required by the Archdiocese Regulations. Meanwhile, on December 13, the Parish Council elections will be overseen by **Phil Chiappari, Annette Chiappari and Bill Tonas.**

Sermon Delivered by Father Stephen on October 25th, the Sunday of the Gerasene Demoniac (the 6th Sunday of Luke)

It amazes me what we remember, different sayings, a bird in hand is two in the bush, etc. One of those sayings that everyone knows is "Where there is no vision the people perish..." The saying comes to us from the Book of Proverbs (29:18). And the translation, "where there is no vision, the people perish" comes to us from the King James Version of the Bible.

Last Sunday, when His Eminence met with the Parish Council, he announced the appointment of Father Niko to Castro Valley and invited everyone for their input. Then it was my turn. I shared everyone's emotions and everyone's feelings, that Father Niko as it says in today's bulletin, during his seven years with us, has done so much as a priest in this parish but also that it was inevitable that one day he was going to take his own parish somewhere, and so the question before us has to be where do we go from here? And I don't mean, when are we getting a second priest. It's not as simple as that. But, where are we headed, as a community? The above quote came to me from Proverbs and I shared it on Sunday. Here is an opportunity for us at the Annunciation Cathedral to articulate a vision for this community for the years to come.

"Where there is no vision the people perish..." And vision is what? The ability to see, to discern, to anticipate, to strive for, to cause to happen. Just as eyesight enables us to see at all, vision enables us to see far ahead, and to chart a roadmap into the future.

The Gerasene demoniac of today's Gospel reading had no vision and that was his problem. At first reading, you think he was crazy. After all, he was beset by demons. He was tormented. But he wasn't crazy. Yes, "for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs." But he had self-awareness: What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God," he asks. "I beseech you, do not torment me." He knew who Jesus was. And he knew who he was. When Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" he responds, "Legion." But his brain and his mind were not together. His cognitive abilities and the way he was

wired were not together. And, so, he was not able to look ahead. The brain, as we know, is biology based. i.e. we're wired to think/act a certain way. This is different from the mind because the mind has been shown to be able to change the brain, change the wiring of the brain. Which brings Dr. Jeffrey Schwartz, author of a number of books on the functioning of the brain, to observe "Biology is not destiny." Just because your brain is wired to react in a certain way does not mean that you are doomed to act compulsively, for example, that you can do nothing about it. You can alter the wiring of the brain, which is why the behavioral modification approach is so successful today. And this is what Jesus shows us this morning's gospel. Biology is not destiny. The demoniac—as sick as he was—and he was a sick man—was not doomed.

Back to vision. What is our vision as a community? Where do we see ourselves in 10, or 20 or 30 years. What kind of a community do we understand God is calling us to be? These are questions that should occupy us and our children, as we embark upon a roadmap to chart the course for the rest of this 21st century, through prayer and fasting, as Scripture invites us to do.

This is not to say we know nothing about ourselves, our strengths and weaknesses as a community, or that we've been floundering all these years. To the contrary, we've done a lot of soul-searching, especially since the earthquake, back in 1989. Our soul-searching had to do with building, of course. Do we build? Where do we build? Why build? And God showed us the way to build the facilities we've had for the last 20 years or so. Now that it was time to consider building the church, again the same questions. And, again, God showed us the way to build what is shaping up to be a most magnificent and awe-inspiring church. Now, that's part of the vision. Ultimately, why did we build? And why did we build here? It has to do with faith. Faith that this community has a future. That it will continue to serve as a house of prayer in the

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Greek Orthodox tradition for generations to come, that people will keep coming, through baptism and or chrismation into this household of faith. While we have faith, we also need to ask ourselves, “what does our faith mean?” “Is it self-serving,” i.e. is the church here just for our own self-expression, or do we envision that it has a mission outside of ourselves and our little circle here?

I suggest this starts by knowing who we are. And I think we have a good idea of who we are. Back in 2008, we commissioned a study through the PAOI. Some of you remember participating in that study. The study told us many things about ourselves, based on our own awareness of who we are as a community, and how others perceive us. And, many of these things were positive. They described us as a warm, welcoming community, one that has experienced many challenges, but one that survived. As wonderful as the study was in describing our character, it did not articulate a vision.

Now, as we rebuild the Cathedral church to the glory of God, we need to articulate a vision. We need to ask hard questions. Questions having to do with birth and death, and why we are here, and what is the purpose of life. Why we were born in this day and time. And, especially, as Christians, what does it mean that we say we believe in Christ? What is this Christ, and what is this body of Christ? And what does that say about what we continue to do, both in our personal life and in our community life? Don't we have a connection, and therefore, an obligation to the world around us, to the masses of unchurched Greek Orthodox Christians, for example, to the poor and the marginalized all around us? Sure, we can develop programs as we have—a soup kitchen or a young adult ministry. But, have we been doing this just to ease our conscience, on the one hand, and reassure ourselves that we are doing something about ensuring a continued membership, on the other, or are these things part of how we see God shaping our future? For, that's the substance of what we mean by vision.

Nor is this undertaking limited to the Parish Council or our various parish organizations; it is one that invites everyone's participation. Whether you come to church or don't come. Whether you have ideas to offer or whether you are just curious to see what will happen. Your input is valuable.

This is, for me, the genius of the story that Luke tells us today about the Gerasene demoniac. It's not about his illness. It's not about his cure. It's what happens to him as a result of his reconciling his mind, and his body, and his brain. It's about his vision. This terrified the people. They didn't know what to make of it. They didn't know what to make of this man, whom they wrote off as being crazy, now that he can see clearly. He wants to be with Jesus. Luke tells us “he begged that he might be with him.” But, what does Jesus do? He sends him back home, back into his community, so that he may help articulate a vision for his people. “Return to your home,” Jesus tells him, “and declare how much God has done for you. And he went away,” the Scripture says, “proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.”

*“For neither upon one place
nor on a narrow piece of land
is the glory of the Lord settled,
but upon all the ends of the inhabited
world has his grace been poured out
and there the Almighty God settled,
through Christ Jesus,
to whom be glory unto the ages.
Amen.”*

— MELITO OF SARDIS, THE MYSTERY OF PASCHA

In Remembrance of Father Peter Gonos

We easily remember the Deans of the Cathedral since the Cathedral was established in 1921—that's because there were so few of them: Father Philaretos (later Bishop Philaretos), Father Pythagoras, Father Spyridon, Father Basil, Father Timothy, Father Polyefktos (later Bishop Polyefktos), Father Meletios (later Bishop Meletios), Father John, Father Theophilos, and Father Stephen. However, many fine priests have served the Cathedral over the years as second priests. One of these is Father Peter Gonos, who served the Cathedral in the 1960s. Recently, we had occasion to speak with his son, Michael Peter Gonos, who sent us some of his books, his blessing and pectoral cross, and the following remembrance:

Between the seminary and his ordination, my father studied at University of the Pacific and became a teacher. He sought out the most difficult jobs, such as teaching in juvenile hall. He married my mother in 1961, and my sister was born in 1964, and I, in 1968. In 1967, he was ordained a priest at Annunciation Cathedral in San Francisco, serving as assistant to Fr. John Geranios. In keeping with his training and experience as a teacher, he took over organizing and leading youth activities, especially the Orthodox Youth Athletic Association. He also assisted the Bishop regularly in Diocesan procedures. Following his assignment in San Francisco, he took over a small church, The Transfiguration, in Concord, guiding it to a growing and vibrant membership. Later on, he returned to teaching in Danville, while continuing to serve as priest evenings and weekends. He also was assigned by the Bishop to assist in other Orthodox churches in Contra Costa and Alameda Counties. In 1976, he and the family moved to Stockton, where he continued to assist at St. Basil's Church for many years.

Thank you for taking his things. I feel they belong where his career in the priesthood began, and where they could serve the most use.

Purchase on Amazon.com and Support the Cathedral!

The Cathedral recently received a small donation from Amazon.com's AmazonSmile program, which the Cathedral has been enrolled for almost a year now. If you sign up for AmazonSmile (free), Amazon will donate 0.5% of your purchase to a non-profit of your choice, in this case Annunciation Cathedral! Growing this program would be a tremendous help to the Cathedral while shopping on one of the biggest online businesses in the world!!

When making online purchases from Amazon, just select "Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral" as your charity of choice. Here's how to enroll in this program:

- Go to <https://smile.amazon.com> and log in with your Amazon account (if you don't have an Amazon account, you can create one from that web page by clicking on the 'Create an account' link)
- Enter 'Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral San Francisco' in the search field and hit 'Search'
- You should see a single result of 'Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral'. If you see more results, locate the one with 'San Francisco, CA' next to it.
- Hit 'Select' to make the Annunciation your charitable organization choice for your Amazon account.

That's it! When shopping on Amazon this Christmas season, simply sign into <https://smile.amazon.com> for the Annunciation to receive 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases. You'll know you're in the AmazonSmile program because the top left corner of the web page will show 'amazonsmile' instead of 'amazon'.

"For no one is able to speak the name of the ineffable god. And if someone dare to say that it is [possible], he is raving with a hopeless madness. And this washing is called illumination, because those who are learning these things are being illuminated in their mind. And the one who is being illumined is washed also in the name of Jesus Christ, who was crucified in the time of Pontius Pilate, and in the name of the Holy Spirit, who through the prophets proclaimed in advance everything concerning Jesus."

— JUSTIN MARTYR, FIRST APOLOGY: ON BAPTISM



Meet Iconographer George Kordis (Redux)

On October 18, Gorge Kordis visited the Cathedral for the first time, along with four members of his team. They were awed by the magnificence of the new Cathedral. Specifically, they were impressed by the space, the volume, the proportions and, of course, the magnificent dome and iron dome. As we have noted in previous issues of the Herald, Professor Kordis (he is professor of iconography at the University of Athens), has forwarded renderings of the proposed iconography for the new Cathedral. Some of the renderings appeared in the Herald, in periodical building updates, and in this year's Festival souvenir book. The actual iconography, however, will take shape once Professor Kordis has an opportunity to view the completed building, study its light and other criteria. We recommend a publication of his, *Icon as Communion*, which can be purchased through such outlets as Amazon.com (remember to purchase it through "Amazon Smile," as the Cathedral receives a percentage of purchases) or the Hellenic College/Holy Cross book store in Brookline, MA. In this book, Professor Kordis explains the various criteria. While he and his team are in San Francisco, they will also engage the church community and the wider community, by offering seminars on iconography at the parish and also at area universities. *Shown below is an icon of the Annunciation, which Professor Kordis gifted to the Cathedral for this year's Christmas card.*



Ambassador Eleni Kounalakis Address Cathedral Community November 1

Nearly two hundred congregants enjoyed lunch following the Divine Liturgy on November 1 and heard an engaging talk by Her Excellency Eleni Kounalakis around her recent service as United States Ambassador to Hungary, as recounted in her book, *Madam Ambassador*. In her book, which she describes as a case study, Ambassador Kounalakis discusses her role advancing the cause of democracy. At the conclusion of her remarks, the Ambassador fielded questions from the congregation and individually signed books. We thank Ambassador Kounalakis for an enlightening afternoon with us, wish her well in her future endeavors, as we are, both as a faith community and, for a number of us, a Greek-American community, proud of her accomplishments. The fact that she is the first American woman of Greek descent to have been named a United States Ambassador speaks volumes. Kudos! Shown in the photo, Ambassador Kounalakis with Father Stephen and Presbyteria Alikis, presenting her with an icon of the Annunciation.

- Further the work and programs of the Orthodox Christian Mission Center (OCMC) in St. Augustine, Florida
- Enhance inter-jurisdictional cooperation in the establishment of domestic mission parishes
- The Metropolis of San Francisco's Strategic Plan, unveiled in 2014, defined three strategic objectives for Missions & Evangelism, which have become C.O.M.E.'s task to fulfill:
- Establish and support Missions & Evangelism Ministries in each parish.
- Plant five new parishes in 10 years.
- Parish Mentoring

Please visit the COME website and pray on how we as individuals and as a community can help with this beautiful ministry!



November Soup Kitchen a Success!

Some 14 young adults showed up on November 16 to help prepare and serve a hot meal to those who, frankly, can use a hot meal and the warmth of a loving church environment. Some 50 guests attended, feasting on a pre-Thanksgiving meal, complete with pumpkin pie and home-made apple pie, prepared by, who else, our young adults. While the Soup Kitchen is a community undertaking, it is the Young Adults who have taken the initiative to see to the functioning of the Cathedral's monthly Soup Kitchen, which began a year and a half ago. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos joined Father Stephen and the Young Adults, and led the group in prayer before the meal. Guests were given a "take away" gift—a bag of food items. One of our guests asked if, perhaps, we had a blanket as he, wheelchair bound, sleeps on the street. It breaks our hearts to see this in the heart of one of our nation's premier cities. But, this is reality. Our Soup Kitchen (for the time being) may be only a monthly thing, but it helps sensitize us to the plight of others and the realization that, in the end, as Scripture tells us, we are our brother's keeper. The next Soup Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, December 15, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism Launched New Website!

The Commission for Orthodox Missions and Evangelism (COME), a vibrant ministry of the Metropolis of San Francisco, has recently launched their beautiful new website, which can be seen at www.come-sf.org. Through the diligence of Thomaida Hudainish, now employed by the Metropolis for this ministry and under the leadership of His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, the leadership of this ministry has committed itself to the following goals:

- Educate and engage the faithful of the Metropolis in Evangelism and Mission
- Fulfill the the Great Commission
- Assist in the establishment and growth of mission parishes to achieve self sufficiency



THE ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US
FOR OUR

Annual Vasilopita and Brunch

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 2016

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVING LITURGY
KORINTHIAS COMMUNITY HALL



FOR QUESTIONS OR TO RESERVE, CALL THE CATHEDRAL
AT 415-864-8000 OR EMAIL P_ALECO@SBCGLOBALNET
BY JANUARY 3, 2016

Introduction to Orthodoxy Class

The Cathedral's Intro to Orthodoxy class, taught by **Alexander Kozak**, has now entered its eighth year! The class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey, but it is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith.

The class explores Christian theology and practice through reading selections of Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com.

Chronia Polla for Namedays in December!

Best wishes to the following

individuals, and others,
who celebrate their name
days this month:
Christina Armatas
Nicholas Arvanitidis
Chrisula Asimos
Nicholas M. Balian
Christina Berro
Christina Decker
Nicholas & Stephanie Delis
Nicholas Economides
Chris Economou
Evgenia N. Fkiaras
Steven Flynn
Spiros E. Fousekis
Nicholas Franco
Nicole Garibaldi
Chrisoula Georgatos
Nicko Georgatos
Christina Johns
Kristina Kallas
Nicole Kallas
Niki Kastoras
Nicoletta Ketchum
Christos Konstantinidis
Nick Kontonis
Chrisoula Koutoulas-Pezo
Chris Kyriacou
Emanuel Leventis
Effie Makras
Christina Mandanis

Niko Manetas
Nikolaos Mastrokyriakos
Christos Mavrakakis
Christina Misthos
Steven Monolakis
Chrisula Novo
Emmanuel Nuris
Emanuel Papadakis
Spiros Papadakis
Christos Papageorge
Stephanie Pappas
Nicholas Pezo
Nicholas Raggio
Nicholas Rally
Barbara Rotter
Barbara Stephens
Chris Stephens
Christina Stratakis
Nicholas Svetcoff
Nick Tarlson
Christina J. Tracas
Nicole Truog
Stephanos Tryphonas
Christina Tsiatis
Spiros Tsifourdaris
Nicholas Tzafopoulos
Nicholas Vavuris
Emmanuela Vorrises
Nick Vorrises
Stephanie Louise Vorrises

The above list was gleaned from our database. Granted, not all names of all people celebrating their name days this month are necessarily in our data base. It is still very much a work in progress. Please forgive any omissions. For your information, we have included a line on our 2016 pledge card asking you not only for the name you go by but also for your baptismal name, as we fine tune our list.

You may wish to consider sponsoring a coffee hour on the Sunday closest to your name day, as a way of celebrating with our parish family. The suggested donation for sponsorship is \$100. For more information, please call the office at (415) 864-8814.

Community Link Continues Ministering to Those in Need

Community Link, now in its ninth year of existence, is a group of Annunciation parishioners who meet once a month on a drop-in basis to visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. We travel to hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. Many of those we visit no longer have family or friends to support them and just need to know there is someone who cares. A short visit or phone call can lift one's spirits a great deal. If anyone in the community knows of any other home bound parishioners to add to our list or would like to join us for a visit, please contact, please contact Pauline Oetzel at poetzel@hotmail.com. Community Link is a small group of Annunciation parishioners who visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. Please keep them in your prayers!

A Message from the Greek Historical Society of the San Francisco Bay Area

Dear Friends, we have entered into an agreement with Arcadia Publishing to publish the historical society's first book, "The Greeks of San Francisco." We are in the process of gathering photographs for the book. We are looking for photographs that capture the religious, cultural, political and business life of the early Greek community (1880s - 1965). Deadline for submission of photographs is November 15, 2015. Please include a short statement identifying the photograph - date, people and event. You may scan the photograph to 300 dpi or submit the original photograph to the historical society to be scanned and promptly returned.

Thank you for your assistance in this sacred endeavor to honor those in our community who came before us. Please contact Mary Zamboukos at maryzamb@comcast.net or Jim Lucas at jim@loukas.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

Cathedral Office Team

In November's *Herald*, we extended thanks to **Al** and **Loula Ossipoff**, **Alexia Kleinekorte**, **Carl Weiner**, and **Paul Hamberis** for being a huge help in putting together mailing materials, and volunteering in the office. Now, however, we have need for volunteering in the office on a daily basis. In addition to putting together mailing materials and answering phones, we need people to help do filing and work on the computer by doing mail merges, spreadsheets and the like. We invite you to let us know your willingness to help out, your areas of expertise, and also your availability. We are thinking that we can get together a team to offer their services on a rotating basis (no more than one day per week). Our office is open 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. It's possible (and likely) that you may be able to volunteer only 4 hours at a time, one day a week. In this case, we should be able to get together a team of no more than 10 individuals. If you are willing and able to help out in this way, please contact **Father Stephen**, at 415 864-8000 or fatherstephen@annunciation.org.

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Philoptochos sends *warmest greetings* to our Annunciation Family as we approach the magic of the Christmas season. We celebrate the birth of our Lord and under His Guidance we strive to promote activities that reach out to those in need in our communities. We ask that you put the following projects on your calendar and join us in helping and serving those in need.

Angel Tree Project- Christmas 2015

In addition to the outreach and philanthropic endeavors we support on the Metropolis and National levels of Philoptochos, we also reach out to projects in our own community. Prior to the beginning of school in late August our chapter provided over thirty backpacks filled with generous school supplies to disadvantaged children. During this Christmas season our Chapter decided to join with the *Sleep Train Foster Kids* which supports kids at risk. We have provided close to eighty gifts of warm jackets and pajama gifts to foster children. In addition to our Philoptochos chapter member's gifts, our Annunciation family has been most generous in joining us in *providing* numerous gifts. Your support has been tremendous and truly shows your generous commitment to philanthropy. All our gifts were turned in by December 6. Thanks to all for the support of this important project.

Vasilopita –2016

Philoptochos will present its annual *Vasilopita and Brunch on Sunday, January 10, 2016*. Our members will be preparing the delicious breads with the coins for good luck. Join us as we celebrate with a champagne brunch following Church service. A nominal fee will be charged and the proceeds will go to our building fund to purchase one of the new Cathedral windows. Let's break bread together and begin a New Year filled with hope and vision for our Cathedral.

Crab Feed - 2016

The **Annunciation Philoptochos Crab Feed** will take place on **Friday, January 29, 2016**. Everyone in the community, including our outside friends, is waiting to see when and if the Bay Area crab season is going to begin and the ban lifted. Our sources tell us that they feel with the cold weather upon us that the season will definitely begin. One way or another we will have the event even if we have to purchase from alternate locations. So put the date on your calendar and join us for a truly delicious and fun event. Check the flyer in the Herald. Members of the committee are already in planning mode. They look forward to seeing you and know you will have a great time eating the most deliciously prepared crab in town!

We wish to thank Angelo Koutoulas of Chick N Coop for the delicious pre Thanksgiving luncheon he prepared for us on Sunday, November 22, 2016. As usual he is always ready and willing to help at the Cathedral.

Also, congratulations to our Philoptochos member Liberty Nuris who will be traveling to Washington D.C. as one of the cadre of decorators, from across the United States, who will decorate the Christmas trees at the White House.. Way to go Lib!

On behalf of Philoptochos I extend a blessed Christmas to all and ask that you count your many blessings of family and friends. And most importantly, let's count the blessing of building our new Cathedral.
May you have....

The Spirit of Christmas which is peace....The Gladness of Christmas which is hope..... the Heart of Christmas which is love.

YOUTH NEWS

Annunciation Dance Year Kicks Off!!

Our new dance year is once again underway, and there are now FIVE dance groups at the Cathedral!

Pre-K group, turning 3 1/2 - 4 in 2015, or entering PreK or Kindergarten in fall 2016
Beginning elementary group, Kindergarten-2nd grade in Fall 2015
Thisavri, 3rd -5th grade in Fall 2015
Spithes, 6th-10th grade in Fall 2015
Ekrixi, 18 and up.

Please contact **Lea Lyberopoulos**, dance board president, at karthia808@yahoo.com for further information.

Sunday School News

Our Sunday School Music Program started off on a "Good Note" in October. The students really enjoyed their introduction to music theories and the various hymns of our Divine Liturgy. Many thanks to Brittany Henderson and Kalliope Fousekis for all of their support in sharing their love of music and faith with our students.

Our music Sundays will continue as the students prepare for our Christmas program which will take place on December 20, following the Divine Liturgy. A Christmas Brunch will follow in the Korinthias Center. A donation of \$10 per person is requested to help our Sunday School ministry. We hope you can join us as we celebrate the spirit of Christmas with our church community.

Please Note: There will be no Sunday School on December 27 or on January 3. Students are encouraged to attend church for family worship on those days.

'Like'
Annunciation
Cathedral Sunday
School!





Altar Groups in December

Serving in the altar is a wonderful way for our young people to participate in the worship of our church, and learn more about our faith. For the 2015-2016 school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers will take on the responsibility of coordinating the groups during services each week. We hope to add several more to their ranks in the coming years!

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group, who are above the age of 10, feel free to contact **Father Stephen** at fatherstephen@annunciation.org. Thank you also to **Nektarios McKnight** for guiding and instructing our altar servers each Sunday. As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions, feel free to let us know. Thanks!

Our altar schedule for this month is as follows:

- December 6 - Group 1
- December 13- Group 2
- December 20- Group 3
- December 25- Christmas, All Welcome
- December 27- Group 4

Our altar groups are as follow:

Group 1- Stelios Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis (Demetri Kontonis- Group Leader)

Group 2- Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, Sean Souza (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, Matthew Nuris (Jonas Tesfai- Group Leader)

Greek School News

Hello Everyone, Greek school started strong again this year, with new and returning students and of course, with our amazingly talented teachers!

Our school offers seven levels of Greek classes: Preschool, Kindergarten, Level 1, Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5. Yearly tuition is only \$500.

If you are interested in enrolling your child/children in any one of these classes, please email Anthi Janssens, anthigi@gmail.com or call Anthi at 415-254-5458.

We look forward to welcoming more new students!! On behalf of the teachers, the Greek School extends best wishes for a joyous Nativity and a very Happy New Year.

SACRAMENTS

BAPTISMS

John Basile Capetanos, son of Basile and Chrisoula (Koutoulas) Capetanos, was baptized on November 7. His Godparents are **Dustin** and **Chrisoula Novo**.

Lennox Moreau (Magdalene) Payson, daughter of **Blair Payson** and **Melissa Hackbarth**, was baptized on November 14. Her Godparent is **Maria Danielides**.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

WEDDING

David Mottram and **Anna Marie Thomas** were married on October 31. Their sponsor is **Marina Dedes Gallagher**.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

D E C E M B E R C A L E N D A R

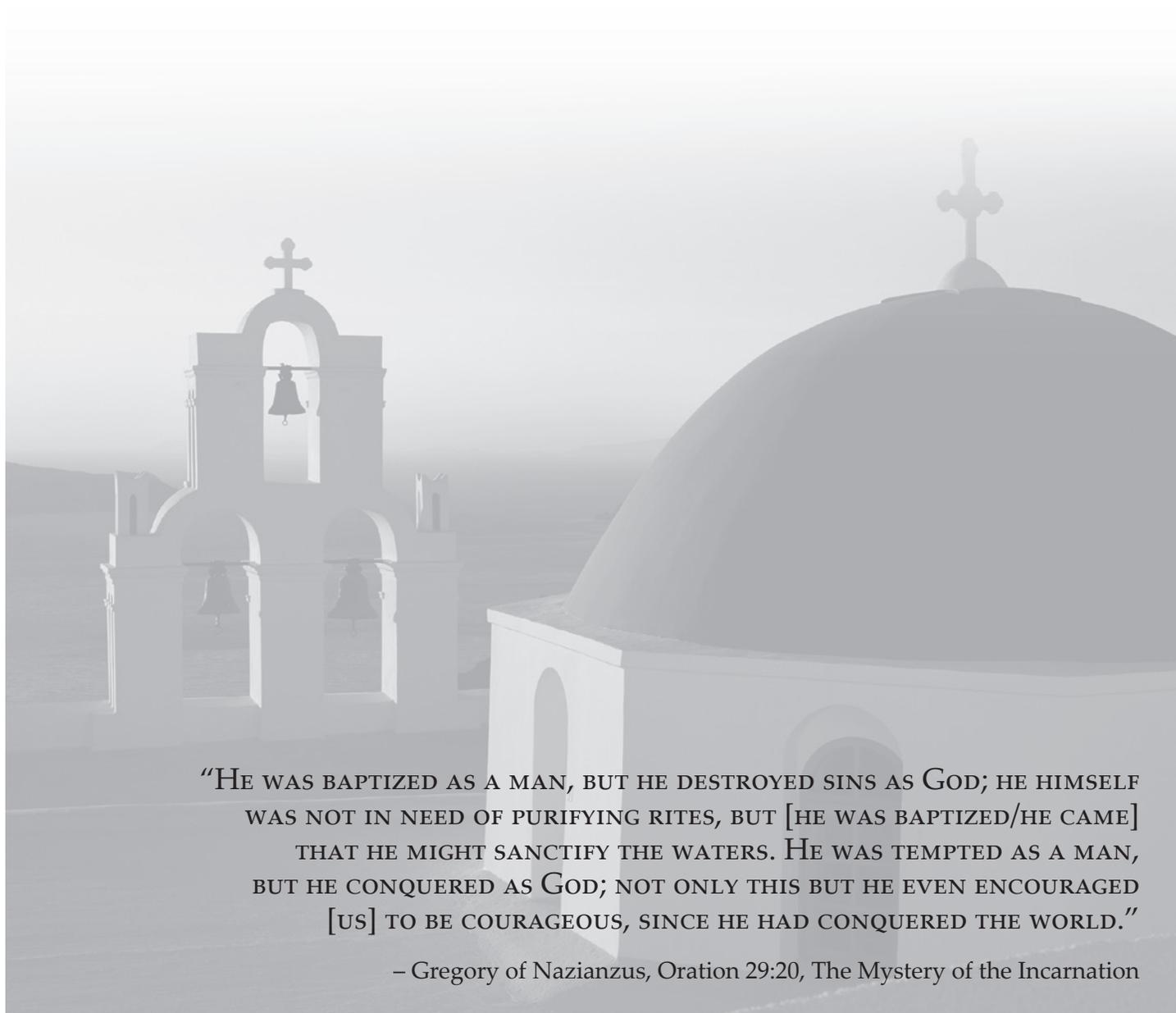
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon		Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Construction Meeting, 10 am Basketball practice 7 p.m.			Greek School, 10 am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon Stewardship Sunday		Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.			Greek School, 10 am Divine Liturgy 10 a.m. (St. Spyridon)
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon Parish Council Elections		Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Construction Meeting, 10 am Basketball practice 7 p.m.			Greek School, 10 am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon Parish Council		Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Basketball practice 7 p.m.	Great Hours, 9 a.m. Liturgy, 10 a.m. Christmas Eve	Orthros, 9 a.m. Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Christmas	
27	28	29	30	31		
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am			Construction Meeting, 10 am			

“There are two ways, one of life and one of death, and great is the difference between the two ways. So, then, the way of life is this: first, you shall love the god who made you; second, your neighbor as yourself, and whatever you want not to happen to you also do not do to another.”

— THE DIDACHE, THE WAY OF LIFE AND DEATH

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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“HE WAS BAPTIZED AS A MAN, BUT HE DESTROYED SINS AS GOD; HE HIMSELF WAS NOT IN NEED OF PURIFYING RITES, BUT [HE WAS BAPTIZED/HE CAME] THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY THE WATERS. HE WAS TEMPTED AS A MAN, BUT HE CONQUERED AS GOD; NOT ONLY THIS BUT HE EVEN ENCOURAGED [US] TO BE COURAGEOUS, SINCE HE HAD CONQUERED THE WORLD.”

– Gregory of Nazianzus, Oration 29:20, The Mystery of the Incarnation

