



Stewardship 2025 Reflection

A little boy asked his father, “Daddy, can I have ten dollars?” The father, wanting to understand, told the boy “Yes, but can you tell me what you plan to do with the ten dollars?” The little boy replied quietly, “Daddy, I need the money to buy you a present.”

We are not so different from that little boy. In every Divine Liturgy, when our gifts of bread and wine are blessed and lifted up in offering to God our Father, we hear the words, “Your Own from Your Own we offer to you.” We acknowledge that, just like the little boy buying a gift for his father, everything we have and everything we offer to God first comes from Him. In the Divine Liturgy, we offer bread and wine to God for thanksgiving. He returns them to us as his body and blood in Holy Communion as receive Jesus Christ within us.

See our Church, Not as it is, But as it Could Be.

One church member was heard to say, “I just want the church to be here long enough to have my funeral here” This is a church in survival mode, just paying the bills. We ask, “What does it cost?” “What are the Dues?” “How much do I owe?” These are earthly questions. A better question would be, “What can I give so that my church can become all it is meant to be – the body of Christ on earth.” With a vision for the future of our parish we can say, “I want the church to be here for my grandchildren’s grandchildren.”

As Orthodox Christians, we see the world as God’s gift, as a sacrament of God’s presence and a means of communion with Him. This way we are

able to offer back to God in thanksgiving and love, the many gifts we receive from him. Like the boy in the New Testament who offered the five loaves and two fish and Jesus multiplied them to feed the 5,000. God receives our humble gifts and multiplies them to feed the world.

When we see great need in our community and in the world, we may ask, “If God is so loving, then why is there so much poverty and suffering in the world?” Where is God when we need him?” Sometimes the need is so overwhelming that to help at all seems impossible, but in the miracle of the five loaves and two fish, we are taught to offer what we have, no matter the amount, and miracles will happen.

So it is with our church, we often imagine only what is humanly possible. If we do our part in faith, God will lovingly return to us much more than we could ever imagine. This is the true meaning of “Your own from Your Own.” We will see our church, not as it is, but as it could be, with our humble gifts multiplied by God’s generosity and love. With our faithful offering, we will see in our church as they did in the early Church, “...the Lord added to their number daily, those who were being saved”(Acts 2:47).

Remember, Lord, those who bear fruit and do good works in Your holy churches, and those who remember the poor. Reward them with Your rich and heavenly gifts. Grant them in return for earthly things, heavenly gifts; for temporal, eternal; for corruptible, incorruptible.”

-from the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR JANUARY 2024

SUNDAY, JANUARY 5:

THEOPHANY EVE
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

MONDAY, JANUARY 6:

HOLY THEOPHANY
DIVINE LITURGY AND BLESSING OF
WATERS 10AM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 7:

SYNAXIS OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12:

MARTYR TATIANA
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
VASILOPITA BRUNCH TO FOLLOW

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19:

MAKARIOS OF EGYPT
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26:

RIGHTEOUS XENOPHON
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

FRIDAY, JANUARY 31:

CRAB FEED 7PM

GOYA WINTER DANCE!



Prayer for Stewardship

Lord Jesus Christ, Thou are the Good Steward, who redeemed Adam and Eve of their failed stewardship by offering Thyself for the life of the world. Thou didst teach us in the feeding of the multitudes that whatever we give to God is returned to us manifold. Thou didst praise those good and faithful servants in the parable of the talents who returned to the Master their gifts multiplied. So help us to learn the joy of stewardship, remembering that everything we have comes from Thee. For Thou are the Good Steward and to Thee we offer thanksgiving, praise and glory, together with Thy Father who is everlasting and Thine all-holy, good and life-giving Spirit now and ever and onto ages and ages. Amen

What is stewardship?

Stewardship is a way of life, which acknowledges accountability, reverence, and responsibility before God. A primary goal of Stewardship is to promote spiritual growth and strengthen our faith in God. Becoming a Steward begins when we believe in God, to whom we give our love, loyalty and trust and act on those beliefs. As Stewards, we affirm that every aspect of our lives comes as a gift from Him. Stewardship calls on the faithful to cheerfully offer back to God a portion of the gifts with which they have been blessed.

Who is a steward?

A steward is an active participant in the life of the Church. The Cathedral encourages all who accept the Orthodox Faith to become practicing Stewards. Each year the Steward is expected to carefully review his or her personal circumstances and make a commitment of time, talent, and treasure to support the Cathedral and her Ministries,

Where does my giving go?

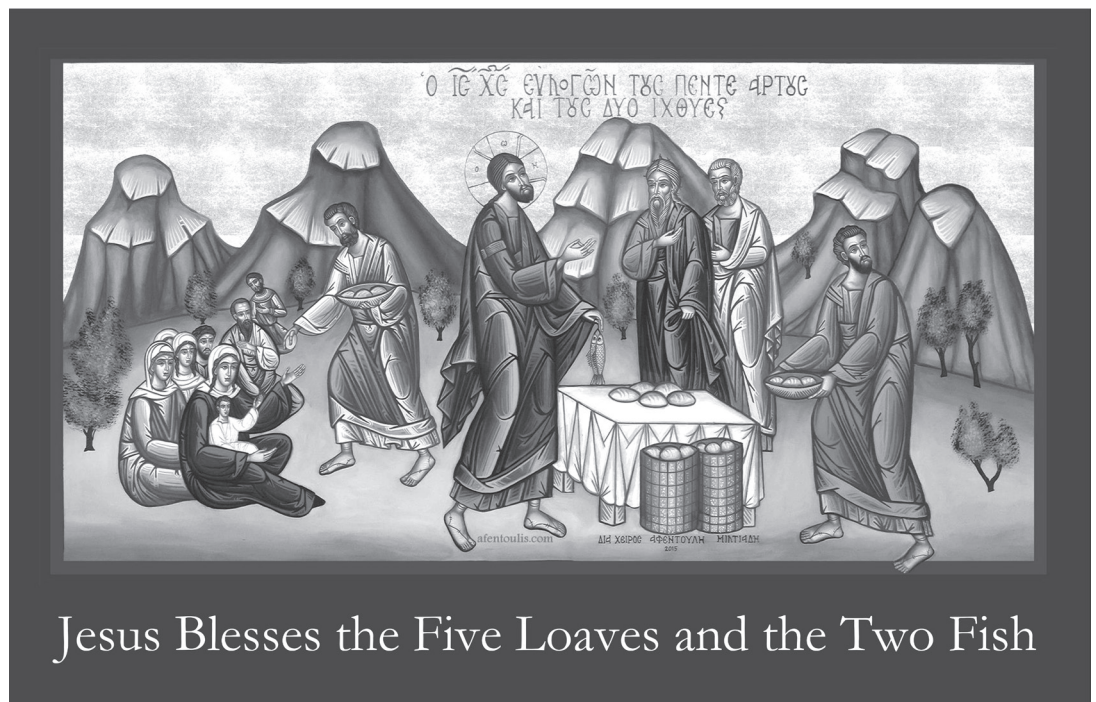
The Cathedral relies on generous giving to support the many vital activities of the church. Your gifts are essential to continue the support and growth of the Cathedral's ministries, as well as the operation of our renovated facilities. Specifically, your financial contributions help the Cathedral:

- Provide religious services, sacraments, religious counseling, and education
- Minister to our communities and those in need
- Maintain and operate our Church, the office, classrooms, and fellowship hall
- Grow our many ministries to support families and individuals of all ages

Annunciation Cathedral Stewardship 2025



Scan & Pledge Today



Jesus Blesses the Five Loaves and the Two Fish

Building Fund Match Campaign: A Resounding Success!

As we step into the new year, it is with immense gratitude and joy that we announce the success of our Building Fund Match Campaign. Thanks to the unwavering generosity and support of our parishioners and friends, we not only met the challenge but exceeded it! Together, we raised an incredible **\$55,961.00**, bringing our total campaign contributions to over **\$105,961.00** with the matching donation.

This achievement marks a significant milestone in our journey to complete the rebuilding of the Cathedral. Every dollar raised will be fully restricted to the Building Fund, helping us take one step closer to finishing the new Cathedral and ensuring it stands as a beacon of Orthodoxy in the San Francisco Bay Area for generations to come.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest gratitude to each and every one of you who contributed to this campaign. Your faith and dedication continue to inspire

us, and we are humbled by your commitment to our community's vision.

Below is the list of donors who generously contributed to the Building Fund Match Campaign. If we have inadvertently omitted your name, please accept our sincere apologies and contact the church office so we can ensure your donation is included.

As we celebrate this success, we are reminded that our work is not yet done. The funds raised through this campaign bring us closer to our goal, but we still have much to accomplish. In the coming months, we will share updates on the Cathedral's progress, and exciting plans for the future.

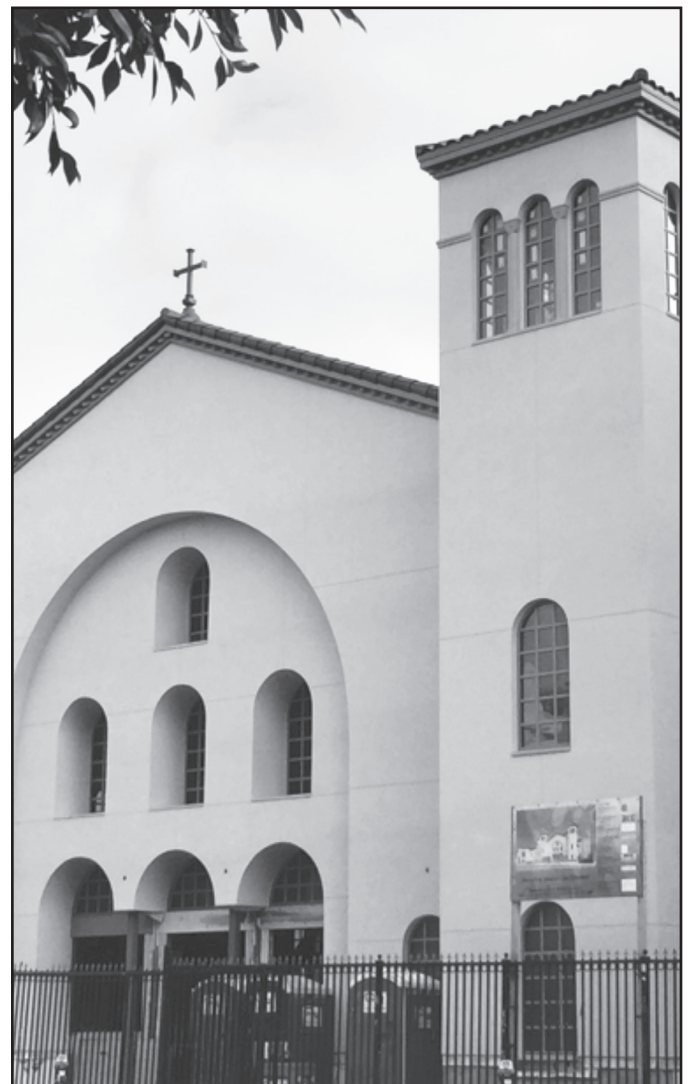
Once again, thank you for your generosity, prayers, and support. Together, we are building more than a Cathedral – we are building a legacy of faith, unity, and hope.

Giving Pledge Campaign

Name

Patricia Aleck
Maria & Andrew Allen
George & Tessa Ambus
Peter A Bagatelos
Annamarie & Robert Ballan
Sophia Balikas
John & Kathleen Bardis
Maria Bissas
Bryan Cheong
Anirudh & Brittany Dhawan
Nicholas & Janine Economides
Evgenia Fkiaras
Vlasis & Kalliope Fousekis
Theodore & Christine Gazulis
Constantine & Joanne Glafkides
Vicki Holloway
Sophia Kleftogianne & Jose Hernandez
Richard & Alexia Kleinekorte
Pete & Stavroula Koutoulas
Chris & Irene Kyriacou
Father Stephen & Presv. Vasiliki Kyriacou
John & Magdalene Lampros
Lea & Bob Lyberopoulos
Cynthia Marcopulos

Aglaia Mavroudis
Tasso & Natalia Mavroudis
Helen Mountanos
Dean & Maria Nicolacakis
Thomas & Liberty Nuris
Alexander & Lula Ossipoff
Pamela Piccinini
Eleftheria Piscopos Stupi
Maria & Jason Polyzos
Dean Poulakidas
Sakee & Irene Poulakidas
Jim & Kelly Rakos
Nick & Patty Rally
Marra Rosso
Kieran Snow
Marios & Anastasia Stathopoulos
Niko & Voula Stathopoulos
Nicholas Svetcoff
Helen & Tom Taptelis
Jim Thomas
Eleni Tsagaris
George Tsagaris
Sally Vedros
Jim & Louise Vorrises
Carl Wiener



FDF Diakonia Project – Annunciation Cathedral, San Francisco, CA

Located in the heart of the Mission District in San Francisco, we are in a very culturally and financially diverse area. We want to help those struggling during difficult times. This year marked the 35th anniversary of the Loma Prieta earthquake in 1989 that destroyed our Cathedral. As we are still rebuilding, we understand the challenges of rebuilding one's life and home. We know how important it is to give back and help those in our surrounding community who are also struggling.

For this year's Diakonia project, our dance groups Orama, To Mellon, Revmata and their families, chose to work with the La Raza Community Resource Center, which is close to our

Cathedral, to provide several wish list items such as gift cards, toys, shoes and clothing. La Raza serves the community with Housing, Food Pantry, Community Kitchen, Utilities, Christmas Toy Drive, and DACA (which protects immigrant children under 16 from deportation - no participation). With the high cost of living, food and gasoline, many struggle with the basic living needs. We pray we can continue helping more of these families to make their holiday season brighter. It's important to give back to our local community, especially those less fortunate, and we are humbled by the opportunity to do so.



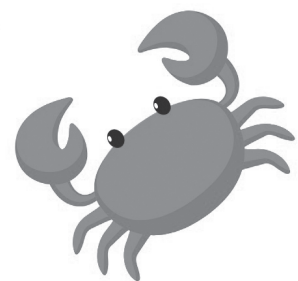
**Annunciation Cathedral
Philoptochos**

Crab Feed

**Friday, January 31, 2025
245 Valencia Street, SF**

**Dinner includes salad, pasta, crab, dessert and wine.
Early-bird special for December \$90 per person.
Prices jump to \$100 per person on January 1, 2025.**

More information coming soon at
annunciation.org



GOYA Winter Formal



Thank you everyone for making the GOYA Winter Formal a tremendous success! This event was a dream come true, and I'm deeply grateful for the love, effort, and teamwork that brought it to life.

Our mission to nurture our kids' faith, culture, and connections guided us as we revived GOYA, and this event perfectly embodied that vision. A special thanks to Dina Kratsas, whose creativity transformed our fellowship hall into something magical, and to the various bay area parishes that promoted and supported our event, especially San Jose and Castro Valley for organizing transportation.

Shout out to our incredible SF Crew—Paul G., Eleni, Mike & Katerina S., George A., Magda, John, Tasso, and my husband, Mike—for your hard work and unwavering sup-

port, and DJ GStav, his amazing music made the night unforgettable!

Thank you to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos for his surprise visit, heartfelt words, and for dancing with our kids—it meant so much to all of us.

Looking ahead, I hope for even more participation as we continue building faith, culture, and community for our youth. Together, we'll create more unforgettable experiences.

God bless, and may you all have a healthy and happy 2025. Thank you!
Vicky Spachis
Chair of Event

Elpida

Elpida Program: Building Community Through Faith

The Elpida Program extends its heartfelt gratitude to everyone in the Annunciation community who has supported and contributed to its growth and success. Your dedication has allowed our program to thrive, creating meaningful opportunities for our youth to engage in their faith, connect with one another, and strengthen their sense of belonging in the Greek Orthodox Church.

As we look ahead to 2025, we have many exciting plans for the year, but the most important event on our calendar is fast approaching. Mark your calendars for **Saturday, March 1st**, as we host our annual Elpida Retreat at the Annunciation Cathedral. This event will begin at **1:00 PM**, and we are hopeful it will be a day filled with faith, fellowship, and service.

This year's retreat falls the weekend before Lent, and while we remain optimistic about gathering a strong group of clergy to lead and guide the children, we recognize the unique demands on priests in their own parishes during this sacred season. For this reason, we are inviting all who are interested in volunteering to join us in making this event a success. Whether you can lend a hand in planning, set-up, teaching, or hospitality, your support would mean the world to us. If you're interested in volunteering, or if you'd like to support our cause monetarily, please don't hesitate to reach out to mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org—we would love to have you join us!

Our goal this year is to grow the retreat, building on last year's incredible success. In 2024, we were blessed to have

around **130 children** participate, and this year, we're setting our sights even higher. Help us spread the word about this event so we can reach more families and serve even more children throughout the Northern California Metropolis.

The Elpida Retreat is more than just a gathering; it's an opportunity to foster a sense of community rooted in faith. It provides children and their families with a chance to connect with others from parishes across Northern California, strengthening bonds and creating lasting friendships. Through engaging lessons, meaningful discussions, and moments of worship, we aim to nurture a strong moral compass in our youth, firmly grounded in the teachings and traditions of the Greek Orthodox faith.

One of the most important aspects of the retreat is its focus on service—coming together as a community to give back. This spirit of service, coupled with the joy of fellowship, reflects the values we hope to instill in every participant. Together, we can create another unforgettable event that inspires our children and strengthens their faith journeys.

Save the Date! Saturday, March 1st, at the Annunciation Cathedral. We are excited for what's to come and cannot wait to see our community come together to make this retreat an extraordinary experience for our youth.

Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and dedication to the Elpida Program. If you'd like to volunteer or support our efforts monetarily, please contact mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org. Let's work together to make 2025 a year filled with growth, connection, and faith!

Growing Up Greek in America: Annunciation Edition

Get ready for an unforgettable night of laughter with the one and only Basile—the Emmy-nominated comedian whose sharp wit, incredible characters, and explosive energy have captivated audiences around the globe!

From his sold-out tours across the U.S., Canada, Europe, and beyond, Basile brings his critically acclaimed “Growing Up Greek in America” comedy series to Annunciation! This unique show blends English and Greek humor, connecting with audiences on both cultural and comedic levels.

Why You Can't Miss This Show:

As seen on HBO, Showtime, Comedy Central, Dry Bar Comedy, and the Tonight Show.

Emmy-nominated voice talent for ESPN's “30 for 30: The Legend of Jimmy the Greek.”

Creator of countless laughs with iconic characters and impressions, including Universal Studio's Bullwinkle J. Moose!

Whether you're Greek or just love great comedy, this show will have you crying tears of laughter as Basile hilariously unpacks the joys, struggles, and quirks of the Greek-American experience.

Tickets go on sale in February and sure to sell out!!

Event is Friday, April 25th 7:30pm at Annunciation Cathedral.





Kourabiethes, Cocoa, and Christmas Classics: A Magical Night for JR GOYA

On Saturday, December 14th, the JR GOYA children gathered at the home of Penny and Dimitri Vardakastanis for an unforgettable evening titled “*Kourabiethes, Cocoa, and Christmas Classics.*” The night was filled with love, laughter, and the true spirit of the season, leaving everyone with hearts full and memories to cherish.

The evening began with a delicious dinner featuring homemade pastitsio that everyone enjoyed. The warm, welcoming atmosphere of the Vardakastanis home set the perfect tone for what was to come. The children then rolled up their sleeves and got creative in the kitchen, baking kourabiethes, the beloved Greek Christmas cookies, which filled the house with the sweet aroma of the holidays.

True to their lively spirit, the children soon turned the dining room into a makeshift dance floor, delighting in Greek dancing and celebrating their culture with joy and energy. As the night wound down, everyone gathered in the family room, cozied up on the sofa with mugs of cocoa, singing along to Christmas songs and enjoying the timeless holiday classic, *Home Alone*.

It was the perfect way to wrap up the year—bringing together friendship, tradition, and holiday cheer in a way only JR GOYA can.

A heartfelt thank you to the Vardakastanis family for their incredible hospitality and generosity. Their home radiated warmth and love, providing a space where the children could create these treasured memories.

I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to all the families who generously opened their homes to our JR GOYA children this year. Thank you to Chris and Irene Kyriacou, John and Magda Lampros, and, of course, Dimitri and Penny Vardakastanis, for hosting events that brought so much joy to our kids.

A very special thank you goes to my amazing husband, Mike, who not only supports all my ideas but never says no when it comes to the children of the Annunciation Cathedral. His love and encouragement allowed us to host multiple events at our home this year as well. And in true Mike fashion, he even bought me a double set of ovens for the garage to make hosting even easier in the future! I am so grateful for his unwavering support, and it brings me so much joy to know we can create lasting memories for our children together.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to continue building on this success and aim to host JR GOYA events monthly. If anyone is interested in opening their home to our JR GOYA children, please don't hesitate to reach out to me at mia.fanourgiakis@annunciation.org. It's a wonderful way to bring our community closer together and create unforgettable experiences for our youth.

Happy New Year to all! May 2025 bring good health, love, happiness, and all of the Lord's beautiful blessings to you and your families. Here's to another incredible year for JR GOYA and our Annunciation community!

SCAN HERE TO DONATE



PANIGYRI - KRITIKI VRADIA

FEATURING CRETAN MUSICIANS FROM LASITHI, KRITI:



NIKOS AVGOUSTINAKIS - LYRA
MANOS LANITZANAKIS - N'TAOLAKI
NIKOS DOXASTAKIS - LAOUTO
DIMITRIS ADAM - LAOUTO



SATURDAY - FEBRUARY 08, 2025

6:30 PM - NO HOST COCKTAIL HOUR
7:30 PM - KRITIKO PANIGYRI DINNER & DANCING



FDF Dance Preview

Presenting our Award Winning
Dance Groups:

To Mellon Revmata Orama

SF ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
245 VALENCIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO, CA

TICKETS:

\$65.00 ADULTS

\$30.00 (12 & UNDER)

RSVP BY 2/1/2025:

www.annunciation.org/glendi



OR
USE THE QR CODE

Free Valet Parking

