



The Importance of Love

“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:35)

These are the words that our Lord Jesus wanted to implant in hearts of His disciples at the end of His mission on earth, so that the church becomes one heart and one spirit. Love is what keeps the unity of the church, like the nerves that connect the whole body to the head, and allow each member to feel one another.



This comes from partaking of communion of one body, and drinking from one Spirit.

When Christ wanted to demonstrate these words with a practical example, He knelt down before the disciples and insisted on washing their feet, and then He commanded them to wash each other's feet. This is love, and this is ministry! He also demonstrated His ultimate love to us by walking in the path of passion and the cross till death, for the sake of our salvation.

Our teacher Saint Paul, the apostle, clarified this concept when he spoke about how the members of the body should honor one another (1 Corinthians 12). The members of the body don't dispose of each other, but rather they support and complete one another so they all work together to serve one body.

Likewise is a successful church. When love flows within her members through the nourishment of the holy sacraments and spiritual teachings, everyone becomes united with one another. Love is a sign for the strength, cohesion, and maturity of a church... one heart... one spirit.

To help support and continue the work of promoting Christ's love in San Francisco, we ask that you prayerfully consider your 2025 Stewardship donation. The work of a healthy church is to grow the love of Christ amongst its parishioners and anyone who walks through our doors. To ensure we are able to continue this work, we must be financially healthy as well, so that the day-to-day worries of our church are taken care of. Then we can truly focus on our true work of spreading the love of God.

When love grows in someone's heart, its fruits start to appear in his life, this was summarized for us by Saint Paul, the apostle, when he said: *“Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.”* (1 Cor 13: 4-8).

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR FEBRUARY 2024

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

YPAPANTI, ENTRANCE OF THE LORD INTO THE TEMPLE
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
ARTOKLASIA & RECEPTION FOLLOWING
DIVINE LITURGY SPONSORED BY
MESSINIAN SOCIETY

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

CRETAN NIGHT GLENDI

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

PUBLICAN AND PHARISEE,
TRIODION BEGINS
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 16

PRODIGAL SON
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

JUDGEMENT SUNDAY
(MEATFARE SUNDAY)
ORTHROS 9AM,
DIVINE LITURGY 10AM
FDF POST VIEW PERFORMANCE IN
THE HALL AFTER SERVICES

Wishing safe travels and Success to our Dance groups at FDF



Dear Parishioners,
Your support has been an integral part of our parish's growth. As stewards, we are called to share our time, talent, and treasure for our church, and so many of you do just that. Thank you for your dedication and generosity!

I am proud to share that, thanks to the overwhelming support of our community, **Stewardship 2025** is off to a fantastic start. Our kickoff on January 12th, coupled with weekly speakers during church services, has provided us with valuable insights and heartfelt testimonials about what makes Annunciation Cathedral so special. It's clear—we love our Cathedral!

Now, let's talk about some important goals as you prepare your pledge for 2025. Our parish has set a **financial goal of \$320,000** for this year to support our budget. Stewardship contributions help cover critical costs such as liturgy, ministries, and building and operating expenses. While this goal does not fully meet all our expenses, it is a solid step forward! *(For a detailed breakdown, please attend our General Assembly on March 30th)* Our long-term goal is to grow stewardship to a level where it fully sustains our church's operating needs.

We currently have **250 stewardship families** in our parish. To meet our goal, we would need an average of **\$1,280 per family annually**, or about **\$107 per month**. Of course, some families are able to give more, while others may give less. Collectively, this is an achievable target. In 2024, we raised \$241,653, so we'll need some additional effort this year to reach our goal. I encourage everyone to step up and give what they can!

Here's how we can make it happen: If every family increased their monthly stewardship by just **\$25**, we would be very close to meeting our goal. For some families, that increase might be \$250 per month—whatever is meaningful and manageable for you. Think about it as **"25 in 2025."** We currently have families giving within a range of amounts: \$100–\$499, \$500–\$999, \$1,000–\$1,999, \$2,000–\$3,000, and above \$3,000. Could you consider moving to the next level? What would that mean for your personal budget? Additionally, could you volunteer more of your time or share your professional skills and talents with the church? Every effort makes a difference as we work together to build our Cathedral and strengthen our community.

I invite everyone to reflect on their many blessings and prayerfully consider how much they can offer in financial support for 2025. If you have already pledged but would like to increase your contribution by \$25 per month, it's easy to do! Visit the Stewardship table during coffee hour, log in to your Realm account to make the change, or email us at **stewardship@annunciation.org** or **realmhelp@annunciation.org** for assistance.

Prefer pledge cards? Those will be arriving in the mail soon. Thank you all for your positive feedback, unwavering support, and commitment to our parish's future.

"Well done, good and faithful servant."

With gratitude,
Denise Yeilding
Stewardship Chair

Annunciation Cathedral Stewardship 2025



Scan & Pledge Today

Helpful Information

SUNDAY SERVICES

MATINS: 9:00AM
DIVINE LITURGY: 10:00AM

REV. FATHER ANGELO

415-864-8000
LEAVE MESSAGE FOR RETURN CALL

CHRISTO PAPPADEMOS

(PASTORAL ASSISTANT)
415-864-8000
Christo.pappademos@annunciation.org

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Name.name@Annunciation.org

PARISH ORGANIZATIONS

Please submit your articles, photos and information by the 20th of the month for consideration for inclusion in the next month's Herald publication.
denise.yeilding@annunciation.org



Parish Council Elected Member 2025

Our New Executive Board

President- Tasso Mavroudis

Vice President: Irene Melitas

Treasurer: Nick Rally

Asst Treasurer: Jim Rakos

Secretary: Mike Spachis

Recording Secretary: Deno Konstantinidis

Corresponding Secretary: Denise Yeilding

Additional Parish Council Members:

Chris Kyriacou

George Ambus

Mike Sarikakis

Tom Nuris

Dean Nicolakakis

Jim Vorrises

Phillippos Athanadiadis

Archon Paul Sogotis

OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY WILL BE HELD

SUNDAY MARCH 30TH, 2025.

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE, AS WE ENCOURAGE ALL TO PARTICIPATE.

An invitation to host Coffee Hour

Last year we launched our new invitational coffee hour program, which provides a more complete offering for our parishioners to enjoy and the fellowship that goes alongside it. And the response was overwhelmingly positive! We thank all the parishioners who embraced this as an opportunity to commemorate loved ones; celebrate various special occasions - including birthdays, name days, anniversaries, and chrismations; or, simply share their love for our community.



Let's build on the program's success this year! We're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host a coffee hour between now and the end of the year. We'll supply the coffee/cream/sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils - and you supply the goodies (e.g., pastries, donuts, bagels & cream cheese, small sandwiches, fruit/vegetable/cheese platters and assorted dips, or other similar items).

Looking ahead, we're seeking hosts for the month of March (2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd). Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

Community Kitchen

"Happy New Year! This month's Community Kitchen saw fresh food, fresh smiles, and fresh volunteers! We served a pasta and meatballs feast with all the usual sides and fantastic desserts. This month's star volunteer is Niko Prountzos, who shows up every month, does his homework while we cook, sets up tables (maybe shoots some basketballs here and there) and then dedicates himself to his service with a massive smile. We love you Niko and thank you for making sure our guests all get a sweet treat at the end of the line! We are also accepting any desserts that parishioners would like to donate if you're a home baker! Please reach out directly to: ommunity.kitchen@annunciation.org if you'd like to donate some sweets! Looking forward to a fruitful February!



Membership Form 2025

San Francisco Annunciation
Cathedral Philoptochos

Our 2025 Membership Drive has begun and we invite you to join us!

Philoptochos is the philanthropic arm of the Greek Orthodox Church in America. We are inviting all women 18 years of age and over to support our philanthropic endeavors through your donation and participation. As we continue to meet the increasing demands of our ever-changing world, we are asking you to get involved. Share your time, talents and skills to make a difference in our parish, Greek and local communities.

If at the present time your schedule does not allow you to be active, you can still become a member and help us accomplish our missions. Please note that \$30 of your total pledge (\$50 minimum) covers National & Metropolis Philoptochos dues.

Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco Philoptochos Chapter #4022

Janis Petrou, Philoptochos President Email: janpetrou@yahoo.com Phone: 603-997-6677

Meena Vellis, Membership Chair Email: mvellis@comcast.net Phone: 650-678-4773

Philoptochos News

Annual Membership Drive

We are inviting all women 18 years old and over to reflect on the blessings in their lives. We ask for a small annual pledge to support our philanthropic endeavors. Through your donation and participation our Ladies Society will continue to meet the increasing demands of our ever-changing world. Get involved. Share your time, talents and skills to make a difference in our parish and Greek and local communities. If at the present time your schedule does not allow you to be active, you can still become a member and help us accomplish our missions. We look forward to having you as a member and sharing your ideas.

Please see the accompanying form to join or renew your membership. Email Meena Vellis with any questions:

mvellis@comcast.com

Personal Information

Full Name :

Address :

Email :

Phone :

Birth Month/Day :

New Member Renewal

Pledge Amount:

- \$50 (min) \$100
- \$75 \$200
- Other \$

Payment Method:

- Cash (drop off at church)
- Check payable to Annunciation Philoptochos (mail to address below)
- Credit Card - we will contact you for payment or click QR code



Annunciation Cathedral, attn.Philoptochos, 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

O Fashioner of all creation, who made seasons and years by Your own authority, bless the crown of the year with Your goodness, O Lord, and preserve our rulers and Your city in peace, at the intercession of the Theotokos, and save us (Festal Apolytikion).

A Healthy and Blessed Ecclesiastical New Year to all!

HOPE



Gingerbread Houses and Hot Chocolate: A Sweet Success for HOPE!

This past December, kids from HOPE came together for a magical Gingerbread House Decorating Event, crafting festive and unique edible masterpieces. The air was filled with laughter, fun, and creativity, as the children turned their visions into sugary realities.

After the decorating fun, everyone cozied up with steaming cups of rich hot chocolate, complete with marshmallows and whipped cream, while watching the beloved holiday classic *Home Alone*. The movie's mix of heartwarming moments and hilarious antics added an extra touch of holiday magic to the event, leaving smiles on everyone's faces.

This wonderful gathering was made possible thanks to the generous hearts of Leah Tostado and Nicole Garibaldi, who

graciously hosted the event, and to the Tostado family, who warmly opened their home to the children. Your kindness and dedication truly made this day unforgettable, creating memories that will last long beyond the holiday season.

As we reflect on the joy of this event, we're thrilled to share that our next HOPE event is just around the corner, planned for this coming March. Stay tuned for more exciting details—we can't wait to see you there!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated, contributed, and supported this heartwarming day. Your efforts help create moments of connection and joy that are the essence of what HOPE stands for. Wishing you and your families a Happy New Year filled with joy, health, and happiness. We look forward to more opportunities to spread joy in the coming year!

"Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, 'See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them.'"

Revelation 21.1-3

Elpida's Annual



LENTEN RETREAT!

Join us for a fun, hands-on Lenten Retreat designed for children in grades K-8! Saturday, March 1st at the Annunciation Cathedral. This interactive event will feature creative stations that focus on important themes of Lent, such as prayer, service, and caring for God's creation

REGISTER
BELOW



\$50 PER
CHILD

Stations include:

- **Baking Lazarakia**- Learn about the story of Lazarus, and bake delicious treats.
- **Painting Birdhouses** - Discover how we can care for God's creation while creating colorful birdhouses to take home.
- **Crafting Wax Candles** - Explore the teachings of St. Gregory Palamas and create your own candles as a reminder of faith and prayer.
- **Making Prayer Ropes** (Komboskini) - Make your own prayer rope and learn about the power of the Jesus Prayer.
- **Service Project: Blanket-Making** - Practice almsgiving by creating blankets for the San Francisco Fire Department to help those in need.

PARENT WORKSHOP
SCREENING OF "A RACE TO
NOWHERE"

More Information

[HTTPS://WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG/ELPIDA-LENTEN-RETREAT](https://www.annunciation.org/elpida-lenten-retreat)



1PM-5PM
1
MARCH

**ANNUNCIATION
CATHEDRAL**

245 VALENCIA STREET
SAN FRANCISCO

Elpida

Elpida Program

The Elpida Program continues to thrive, with monthly classes held on the first Sunday of each month. **Our next Elpida class will be on February 2**, immediately following Holy Communion.

These sessions are designed to bring children from K-12 together in mixed-age groups, fostering collaboration and inclusivity while teaching about the Greek Orthodox faith. Participation has been strong among members of the Greek Dance group.

In addition to the monthly classes, we are excited about the upcoming Elpida Retreat on March 1st. This event will feature lessons tailored to deepen the children's understanding of their faith. Under the guidance of Father Angelo Pappas, we are grateful to also welcome the participation of Father Nebojsa Pantic (San Jose), Father Niko Bekris (Castro Valley), and Father Manoli Aspiotis (Belmont). Their presence and guidance will add tremendous value to the retreat, and we look forward to a meaningful day of spiritual growth and community building.

Additionally, Dustin Novo has arranged for representation from the San Francisco Fire Department to accept and distribute the hand-tied blankets as this year's service project. The Tony and Helen Sooklaris Scholarship is offered to cur-

rent 8th graders this year. There is an application process including an essay. This scholarship is intended to support children in their educational endeavors and encourage active participation in church life. We are thankful for the generosity of the Sooklaris family, who generously sponsored \$1,000 for this scholarship.

JR GOYA

The JR GOYA ministry is gaining momentum, offering fun and engaging events that bring middle school-aged children together for fellowship and spiritual growth. Two upcoming events are particularly exciting:

1. **Leprechauns and Loukoumades:** A St. Patrick's Day-themed event featuring festive games, activities, and a delicious loukoumades-making experience.
2. **Self-Care and Spaghetti:** An evening focused on relaxation and bonding, with a self-care theme complemented by a family-style spaghetti dinner.

Both events will be hosted at the home of Mike and Mia Fournourgiakis. We appreciate the dedication and enthusiasm of those who are involved with these programs. With continued support from our clergy, parishioners, and ministry leaders, we are confident that these programs will flourish and make a lasting impact on our community.

Ionian Village

Embark on the summer of a lifetime in Greece, delving deep into your Greek Orthodox faith and Hellenic heritage. Ionian Village, nestled along the pristine Ionian Sea, offers the perfect setting for an unforgettable summer adventure, complete with a private beach, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, basketball courts, a soccer field, and much more!

Our program is marked by excursions to places like Ancient Olympia, Bartholomio, Patras, Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Kalavrita, Aegina, and even Athens! You'll be learning about your faith and heritage while having the time of your life, surrounded by your peers. Sign ups are OPEN NOW and spots fill up fast!! For more information: <https://www.ionianvillage.org/summer-camp>



UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
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Tickets on Sale Feb 28th

