



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 • 415 864-8000 • FAX 415 431-5860 • E-MAIL office@annunciation.org

JANUARY 2010

KUDOS TO OUR STEWARDS: HOORAY!

The Annunciation Cathedral salutes its stewards for 2010. The four-week long campaign, which began on November 15, 2009, concluded on December 6, with the collection of the 2010 stewardship pledge cards. We thank the following for pledging to support the Cathedral and its ministries for 2010 by making their financial commitment. (This list reflects 2010 Pledge Cards received as of December 20, 2009.)

Our Honor Roll of 2010 Stewards

Abraha, Gebremedhin & Zewdi Tesfamicael	Cusulos, Nan	Koutoulas, Pete & Voula
Aleck, Demetria	Dalianes, Athan & Marguerite	Kromydas, Georgene & Bill
Aleck, Patricia	Dariotes, James	Kyriacou, Mr. & Mrs. Chris
Allen, Maria & Andrew	Darzins, Emanuel A.	Kyriacou, Mr. & Mrs. Justin
Ambus, Anthony & Zetta	Dauria, Joan	Kyriacou, Rev. Stephen & Aliko
Arestis, Lambrini	Dekaristos, John & Anastasia	Lagares, Clarence
Argyres, Ackie	Derdevanis, Charlotte	Landis, John and Helen
Arvantely, Peter T. & Julie Cedrone	Dimitriou, Agnes	Leventis, Angie & Theodore
Athanasiades, Philip & Diala	Dimitriou, Andrew & Nada Blasuto	Loufas, Mr. & Mrs. John
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Bagatelos, Michael	Eliopoulos, Annette & John	Makras, Sophie
Bagatelos, Peter A.	Eliopoulos, Jr., John	Makras, Thalia
Balian, Annamarie & Robert	Eliopoulos, Peter John	Manetas, Mr. & Mrs. Peter
Bekris, Rev. Dn. Niko & Diakonissa Stella	Elite, Dr. Anthony	Marin Community Foundation
Bissas, Maria	Evangelatos, Georgia	Markanton, Helen
Bozionelos, Jim and Florika	Franco, Mr. & Mrs. Gus & Helen	Mattis, Mr. & Mrs. George
Bozionelos, Pete	Georgatos, Nicko M.	Aglaiia Mavroudis
Callas, Georgia	Glafkides, Mr. & Mrs. Constantine	McKnight, Nektarios L.
Calofonos, Dennis S.	Grampsas, Bonnie	Melitas, Theano
Caloyanides, Toula	Hamberis, Lillian (Stavroula)	Mires, Mary
Cardellini, Marie	Hamberis, Paul	Mitchel, Mary
Chiappari, Philip & Annette	Holloway, Damian & Vicki	Morasch, Ben & Diana
Chiappari, Yvonne	Kallas, Mrs. Louise	Mountanos, Michael S. & Erika
Choulos, George & Rheeta	Kapetanakos, Anna and Matthew Marca	Nager, Perri
Cocoles, Jim & Luba	Kasaris, Mary	Nicolacakis, Maria & Dean
Commerce Holding Company	Katsanis, Gari	Nicolas, Michael & Helen
Contakos, Anastasia & Stefan Schulz	Ketchum, Robert & Nicoletta	Nicolas, Rita
Costakis, Mr. & Mrs. Mike	Kokalis, Despina Nick	Novo, Dustin & Chrisula Bissas
Costakis, Mr. Stephen	Kosaris, Paul & Irene	Nuris, Manuel & Teia
Curd, Vivian & John	Koupas, Evelyn	Nuris, Thomas & Liberty
	Kourtoglou, Lee Anthony	Oetzel, Robert & Pauline

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Ofiesh, Father Gregory and Khouriah Mary Jane	Sarikakis, Mike & Katerina	Tzortzis, Mr. & Mrs. James
OSSIPOFF, Alexander & Lula	Scourkes, Dr. & Mrs. Theodore	Vafiadis, Annamaria Ioannis
Panagiotopoulos, Antoni and Sotiria	Serveta, Vasiliki	Varanis, Terpsi
Panagotacos White, Connie	Sheddric, Aaron	Vellis, Mr. Andrew
Panas, Mr. Michael	Slowe, Christopher	Vlahos, Basil John
Panomitros, John & Helen	Smith, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher	Vlahos, George V.
Pantages, Sr., Gregory & Mary	Sooklaris, Helen	Vlahos, Georgia M.
Pantages, Peter	Soultanakis, Mrs. Efstratia	Vorrises, Angelo J.
Pantazelos, Deborah & Peter	Spachis, Jack	Vorrises, Denis J. & Renee
Papageorgiou, Dr. Sophia	Stamatopoulos, Michael G. & Anna	Vorrises, George & Loula
Pappajohn, Caroline	Stathopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Marios	Vorrises, Louise & James
Peterson, Mr. & Mrs. Robert	Stathopoulos, Nikolaos	Vorrises, Marie
Pezo, Christine K.	Stratoudakis, George & Georgia	Vorrises, Stephanie Louise
Pezo, Lester & Chrisoula	Svetcoff, Nicholas	Vorrises, Vassiliki
Piccini, Pamela	Tacticos, George	Vouchilas, Georgia
Poulakidas, Dean	Tamaras, Nick & Joy	Vouchilas, Gus
Poulakidas, Sakee & Irene	Tarlson, Nick and Mauna Arnzen	Vozaites, Antonios & Thalia
Poulos, Mr. & Mrs. James	Tewelde, Zaid	Vriheas, Michael & Loula
Raggio, Nicholas & Anastasia	Tonas, Basil & Mary	Yannaghas, Mary
Rally, John & Mary	Tsifourdaris, Spiros and Aristea	Yeilding, Bret & Denise
Rally, Mr. & Mrs. Demetrius	Tsokas, Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios	York, Marvin & Bessie
Rangaves, Demetrios	Tsougarakis, Mary C.	Zakis, Gus & Pope
Rangaves, Kay	Tzafopoulos, Nicholas & Vasiliki	Zambelis, John & Pamfilia
	Tzekos, Loula	Zeru, Menghiste & Gebremariam, Hiwet

If you have not yet submitted your 2010 Stewardship pledge card, we invite you to do so during the month of January. We invite you to “get on board” with all your other fellow parishioners who want to support the work being done by the Cathedral. At the end of January, we office will automatically “roll over” those who were active in 2009, but for whom we did not receive a 2010 card, as outlined in the letter sent to the Cathedral’s parishioners at the start of our 2010 Stewardship campaign.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTION RESULTS

Elections to the Parish Council for the 2010 calendar year were held on Sunday, December 13. The following eight were elected to the Parish Council for a two-year term: **John Coundouris, Thomas A. Nuris, Perri Tsougarakis Nager, Nikolas Stathopoulos, Nicholas Svetcoff, George Vlahos, James D. Vorrises, and Gus Vouchilas.**

Upon ratification by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, the eight newly elected members will receive their oath of office on Sunday, January 3, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Immediately following, they will convene, together with the seven who were elected to a two-year term in December, 2008 to elect Parish Council officers for 2010. The Parish Council consists of the Dean and fifteen lay members, seven of whom are elected one year, and eight the following year, both for a two-year term.

LOOKING FOR A NEW OFFICE MANAGER

There is currently a Cathedral Office Manager position available, which we hope will be filled in the very near future. The job description and qualifications will be posted on the Cathedral website (www.annunciation.org), Craig’s List, and Monster.com. just as soon as it becomes available. Parishioners who are interested in applying may do so, as per the instructions on the web sites.

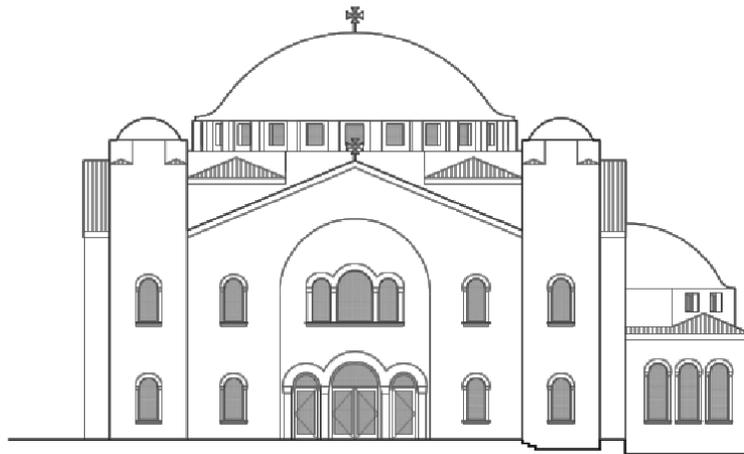
ARCHITECT, CONTRACTORS, CONSULTANTS WORKING OUT A COST FOR THE NEW CATHEDRAL

As noted in our December *Herald*, the Cathedral's architect, contractor and consultants (primarily structural, mechanical and electrical) have been working feverishly to come up with a cost for the building of the new Cathedral. The cost will enable us to put forth a proposal for adoption at a Parish Assembly, as required by our Archdiocese Regulations. The job is easier

said than done, however. It's not as though one takes square footage and multiplies it by an average cost, as one does when building a house. The soil, structural, mechanical, and electrical requirements, among others, are major factors in determining what it will cost to build.

As noted in December, the project consists of constructing two levels of below grade parking on the Ca-

thedral's site at 245 Valencia Street, with a Cathedral above. The Cathedral will be at the level of the Cathedral's present buildings. It will feature a worship space on the ground level, accommodating approximately 550, a balcony for the choir, and an adult baptistery. We expect to have a cost for this project this month, so that we can proceed, at long last, to rebuild the Cathedral, lost to the Loma Prieta Earthquake twenty years ago.



CHURCH FRONT: VIEW FROM VALENCIA STREET



PUTTING TOGETHER A FINANCE COMMITTEE TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE NEW CATHEDRAL

At its December meeting, the Parish Council heard from **Stefani Roumeliotes**, who offered some thoughts about fund raising for the Cathedral's project. Among other things, Stefani noted that the San Francisco Metropolis is the only Metropolis in the Archdiocese that does not have a Cathedral church, suggesting we need to begin thinking about raising money from three sources: 1. the Cathedral's parishioners and friends, 2. parishes and individuals from throughout the Metropolis (the seven Western States), 3. individuals from throughout the country. Accordingly, a finance committee is in the process of being formed with a view to developing a plan to raise the money needed to build the Cathedral and, by doing so, to perpetuate the important legacy of our Faith. Stefani has had considerable experience with fund raising in political campaigns, as well as various charity events.

STEWARDSHIP INSPIRES US

As noted above, the Cathedral's 2010 Stewardship campaign, with the theme Come and See (Cf. John 1:46), lasted four weeks, from Sunday, November 15 until December 6. The homily each Sunday was offered by a different member of the Cathedral's Stewardship Committee. On November 15, the homily was offered by **Gus Vouchilas**, chairman of the committee; **Nick Svetcoff** spoke on November 22; **Dr. Nikolas Stathopoulos** spoke on November 29, and **Pauline Zakis Smith** spoke on December 6th. Following are the remarks of Dr. Stathopoulos and Pauline Zakis (Gus' remarks were reprinted in the December *Herald*.)

Stewardship Sermon delivered by Dr. Nikolas Stathopoulos on November 29

Good morning Father Stephen, Father Gregory, Deacon Niko and fellow parishioners and happy belated-Thanksgiving Day! I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak to you all and express my thanksgiving for all of the wonderful experiences and memories growing up in this parish.

Thanksgiving day is a perfect time to commemorate corporately how good God has been to us. Yes, holidays can sometimes be wrought with sad memories and longing nostalgia but let's choose to focus on the positive. Every one of us here has a roof over our head and has enough food to eat. Many people have so much less so God has really been good to us.

Today I want to talk about not giving out of our excess or surplus but giving from the depths of our heart. The gospel reading for today from Luke 18, which we just heard, dealt with a rich young ruler— a very nice guy, extremely wealthy, a man of status and no doubt very educated. He followed all the rules to the T. He was very **"filotimos"**, **"ena olikiro palikari"**, **"a chip off the old block"**...but something was missing. The sheer fact that this rich young man, who had everything, asked Jesus "what must I do to inherit eternal life" shows us that the rich young man was still searching. All of his riches and fame could not satisfy him; he knew there was something missing. Jesus challenged him to go the extra mile: to sell everything he had and give it to the poor. This would require above and beyond the sacrifice the young man had made thus far; it required total, and utter OBEDIENCE. That's a hard word for most of us, not only as kids but also as adults. What Jesus does here is test the man's heart and attachments. It reminds me of the verse **"Where your heart is there will be your treasure**



Prayer is the strength of the body,
The prosperity of the household,
The good order of the city,
The might of the Kingdom,
The victory in war,
the security in peace,
The unity of those divided,
The constancy of those united.

*Saint Gregory of Nyssa
Fourth Century*



also.” Is God placed ahead of worldly possessions in our own lives?

I remember those days as a boy growing up in this wonderful parish.

This was my safe haven, my home away from home. Our weeks were jam-packed with church activities, I was involved in Sunday school, Greek school, altar service, basketball, Greek dancing, GOYA, YAL and more. All of my involvement was not always voluntary or optional but I can honestly say that I am grateful to my parents for encouraging me to participate and I believe that these were pivotal in making me who I am today. I have such fond memories, such as GOYA sleep-overs at the cathedral choir loft, summer camp in Yosemite, and practicing relentlessly for FDE, just to name a few. We were just a community of people sharing a common language, a common culture with the foundation of a common faith, multiple parts forming one unified body in Christ—and we can not allow that to slip away.

My involvement in “church life” gave me and gives me to this day a sense of pride and security that many children and adults do not experience. I want the same for our son Marios, our godson Vlasis, and all the children in the community as they face an increasingly challenging and complicated world.

In closing, an expression my father Marios always told me comes to mind, **“Kounise ta heria sou na sothis.”** I’ve extrapolated this metaphorically speaking to mean “strive to give your best, in everything you do, and that will make you free!! Or in other words, **“Faith without works (or Praxis) is dead”**. In all you do, do as unto God. That nugget of wisdom from Messinia can be applied to all avenues of our lives.

God has blessed many of us in different ways--some are wealthy, others are gifted musically, spiritually, academically, culinarily, etc, etc. All can serve and give according to their gifts. We are all part of the same body of Christ. I want to encourage you today to give not only of your wealth but to give of yourselves — from your heart, cheerfully. The Apostle Paul teaches us in 2 Corinthians 9:6-7, **“Remember this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”**

I will leave you with the Webster’s Dictionary definition of stewardship:

The careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one’s care.

God has left His Church and its congregation in OUR care. The time is NOW to show our community’s true backbone.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

Happy Hollidays!!

Kala Chriistougenna kai Eutichismenos o Kainourgios Chronos!!

LET US THANK NANCY PELOSI

During his recent visit to the United States, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew was welcomed to Washington, D.C. in a way reserved for very few individuals, thanks to the efforts of our member of Congress **Nancy Pelosi**. Speaker Pelosi co-hosted, with **Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid**, a luncheon in the U.S. Capitol. It is only once a year, at most, that the Speaker of the House and Senate Majority Leader come together to honor a visiting dignity in such a manner as they did the Ecumenical Patriarch. For us, it was most gratifying to know that during this time of important legislative activity, Speaker Pelosi would take the time to host this event, as it speaks volumes about our Patriarch’s leadership on issues, environment and peace. Should you wish, it would be nice to send a note to Speaker Pelosi, as informally or formally as you wish, and to say *Efharisto!* Her address is: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, 235 Cannon HOB, Washington, DC 20515.

**As a bird without wings, as a
soldier without arms, so is a
Christian without prayer.**

*Saint Tikhon of Zadonsk
Eighteenth Century*

Stewardship Sermon offered by Pauline Smith on December 6

Good Morning,

First off I would like to thank our Sunday school kids for a great job done in their performance. I want to take a moment this morning and explain a few things about stewardship and what I believe it means. But first I want to give you a little bit of background information. My family has been members here at Annunciation since my parents came to America. This church has always been a part of my life. Not only has this church been part of our lives but the people here have been part of our lives as well. The community we have here is like no other. We are a family, and the older I get the more I need that family.

When I was a child coming to church meant coming to Sunday school, or dance practice to see my friends, but as I grew the meaning grew as well you see the first person who taught me about stewardship was my mother. As a child I remember my

mom coming to the church to help in the kitchen and those of you who know my mother know some things never change. It was never an option for her. It was always just something that HAD to be done. I never understood why she went I just know she HAD to go. When I was old enough to help the women in the kitchen put me to work right next to them, Cutting onions or peeling potatoes whatever I could do to help. The older I got the more my mother insisted that I help with our church and our community but by that time it was already part of me. My mother and the women in that kitchen had already instilled it in me. I even remember getting a phone call when I lived in Nevada saying “Panayiota, don’t forget the festival is next month and you’re needed” Needless to say I came home so that I could volunteer at our festival. I couldn’t say no I was needed here in my home. Annunciation has always been home for my family. When it was time to baptize my neph-

ews we never had to ask what church we were going to because even though my brother lives in another state he comes home to Annunciation. We always come home. Even though we always came home over the years I still didn’t fully understand that what were doing was for God or that God wanted us to give something back.

When I met my husband, one of the first things we talked about was religion. Fairly early on in our relationship I told him “I want to get married in my church, Annunciation, and I want our children to grow up the way I grew up.” You see he didn’t fully understand. He had never been part of a community like ours. So my husband being the man that he is packed us up and moved us back to California so we could get married in my home, and although it took him a little while he now understands what I meant by My church and My community or why everyone here is a *Theia* or *Theo* because we are all a family.



In a home filled with prayer, God is “tasted,” prayer is as natural as breathing, and Holy Tradition is passed to the next generation less by preaching than by life and example.

Sister Magdalen
“Orthodox
Tradition and Family Life”



PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

PARISH VASILOPITA TO TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

We invite all of the parishioners and friends of the Cathedral to attend our annual Vasilopita and Brunch to be held Sunday, January 10, 2010 after services. This year's event will be chaired by **Pope Zakis**.

The vasilopita celebration is one of the most beautiful traditions of the Greek Orthodox Church. This ancient tradition began in the fourth century, when Saint Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, wanted to distribute money to the poor in his area. He

commissioned some women to bake sweetened bread in which he secretly placed gold coins. The breads were distributed to poor families. Upon cutting the bread, they were pleasantly surprised to find the gold coins.

This event is still practiced today in our Orthodox homes and in the life of our Parish in the service of the cutting of the vasilopita. The donations and monies raised from the sale of these vasilopitas are sent to St. Basil's Academy to help pay for its operating costs. St. Basil's Academy is an orphanage located in Garrison, NY and

is the sole property of the National Philoptochos Society. For the last 50 years St. Basil's has provided "a home away from home" for the Church's less fortunate children.

As noted, the vasilopita tradition began by providing for the hungry and the destitute and yet, after all of these centuries, it is amazing to see how the vasilopita celebration is still very much alive. All this points to the timeless need to continue the path of charity and love that Saint Basil the Great began so many years ago.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING MEETING DATES

Please note that the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos will hold general meetings on January 7, February 11, March 11, and April 8, all Thursdays, at 1 p.m. You are cordially invited to attend, and to participate in the decision making process of the women of the Annunciation Cathedral parish.

**Why is the Lord's presence
promised to two or three?**

**Because there, where two or
three are gathered in the name of
Christ, is the Church, the union
of faith and love; there is mutual
love.**

*Saint John of Kronstadt
Nineteenth Century, Russia*



NEXT COMMUNITY LINK JANUARY 16

Join us for first Community Link of 2010 on January 16!

We meet at the Cathedral at 9 am for prayer and visit assignments, begin our visits by 10 am (usually in pairs), and conclude before lunch time.

Our Community Link visitations are an excellent way for all of us -- children and adults -- to share God's love and joy with seniors who are experiencing isolation from their community due to illness, loss or hardship. Would you be willing to make a visit, write a note or drive someone to a doctor's appointment? If so, please contact Caroline Pappajohn: 415 699-5633 or cpappajohn@yahoo.com.

Hope to see you on the 16th!

CRAB FEED, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29

The 28th Annual Crabfeed this year will be co-chaired by **Mike Canellos** and by **Patricia Destein** and will take place on Friday, January 29, beginning with a reception at 6:00 p.m. with dinner following, at 7:30 p.m. Fliers were sent out recently. Since the crab feed is a very popular event, and is often sold out, we invite you make your reservations as soon as possible. For your convenience, the flier is reproduced, below.

The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos
Society presents its:

28th Annual Crab Feed

Friday, January 29, 2010

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 p.m.

Dinner: 7:30 p.m.



\$45.00 per person

Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment

For Reservations call:
Annunciation Cathedral at 415.864.8000

or

Foula Vasilogiorgis at 415.378.7200

Email: foula@sanfran.goarch.org

Attended Parking Available

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Please reserve _____ ticket(s) and/or _____ table(s)
(Maximum 10 people per table. Include the names of all guests to
be seated at the table)

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos, Attn: Crab Feed
Please mail completed reservation form and check by January 10th to:
Annunciation Cathedral: 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94103

FOCUS ON YOUTH

GREEK SCHOOL RESUMES ON JANUARY 9

We are pleased to announce that Greek School will resume on Saturday, January 9. This session will run from January 9 to June 13, and then resume again in the Fall. Classes will meet at Noon and conclude at 2 p.m., with a short supervised recess in between. They will be taught by **Demetra Armenakis** and by **Ioanna Pagani**. Demetra will teach the younger children and Ioanna will teach the older children. We will also have a substitute teacher (tentatively, this person is **Ilectra Anagnostopoulou**). In addition, we are especially pleased that we will have the assistance of **Evdokia Andreadis**. Evdokia is a daughter of Ambassador **Ioannis Andreadis**, Consul General of Greece, and Mrs. Andreadis. The teachers will obtain the books and supplement the texts with other materials, such as songs, hymns and prayers. The tuition for this session will remain the same as last year, i.e. \$220, with half price for siblings.

Our parents' support group is headed by **Pamfilia Zambelis** (pzambelis@yahoo.com), with the assistance of **Philip Athanasiades** and **Anna Kapetanakos**. Please e-mail Pamfilia with your questions or concerns, or to enroll your child(ren). You may also do so by calling the Cathedral at 415 864-8000. Won't you join us as we endeavor to preserve our Hellenic faith and heritage by teaching the language and culture of Greece to our youth? Help spread the word; encourage your friends and relatives to take part in this stimulating educational program being offered by the Annunciation Cathedral. 864-8000. Won't you join us as we endeavor to preserve our Hellenic faith and heritage by teaching the language and culture of Greece to our youth? Help spread the word; encourage your friends and relatives to take part in this stimulating educational program being offered by the Annunciation Cathedral.

GETTING READY FOR FDF IN SAN JOSE, CA JANUARY 14-18

As noted, our dancers and directors, advisors and parents, are hard at work preparing for the Greek Orthodox Folk Dance and Choral Festival, which will be held in San Jose, CA over the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday weekend, January 14-18. This will be the 34th annual FDF. Typically, the event, which draws over 2,500 young people and their families and friends, is held over the Presidents' Day weekend. However, because Pascha this year will fall on April 4, FDF will be held approximately one month earlier. Parents are encouraged to go ahead and register for themselves and their children.

Meanwhile, costumes are being made. The cost of making the costumes is being underwritten by the parish budget but also by donations and fundraising events by the parents themselves. In addition to funds raised at our recent festival, dance group parents participated in the recent Alzheimer's walk, raising an additional \$2,000 for the program.

Our groups *Ekrixi* and *Erini* practice on Tuesday evenings, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. *Ekrixi* (jr. high school) is being directed by **Michael Garibaldi** and **Nicole Georgiou**. *Erini* (ages 7-10) is being directed by **Katerina Loufas**, **Alyssa Obester**, and **Jimmie Stavarakas**. *Seizmos* practices on Tuesday evenings, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. *Seizmos* (high school/adult), is being directed by **Leah Stavarakas**. Our adult dance group, directed by **Deacon Nikos Bekris**, practices Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. *Spithes* (ages 5-10) practices on Sundays, following the Divine Liturgy. *Spithes* (ages 5 to 8), is being directed by **Irene Kyriacou**, **Lea Lyberopoulos**, **Lea Papavasiliou** and **Nicholas Balian**. *Thisavri* (ages 3 and 4) practices on Sundays, following the Divine Liturgy. It is taught by **Irene Kyriacou**, **Lea Lyberopoulos** and **Shareen Saddick**.



CATHEDRAL GOYA CHRISTMAS PROJECT: HELPING THOSE IN NEED

On December 22, the Annunciation Cathedral GOYA held its annual Christmas Project for the community. Consisting of young people in junior high and high school, under the leadership of **Katerina Loufas** and **Alyssa Obester**, our GOYA met at the Cathedral that evening, bringing clothing, toiletries and linens for the homeless, which were then given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to distribute to those in need this winter. Following the clothing drive, we went Christmas caroling at an old folks home, followed by dinner at the home of the **Misthos family**. Helping others is an act of joy and love, and something that benefits the soul. As such, it is a calling of every Christian, just as much as prayer, fasting, and going to church.

It is the goal of our GOYA to do a community project every three or four months, with discussion meetings at the Church and fellowship events in the meantime. If you are interested in being a part of this beautiful ministry, please contact Deacon Niko Bekris at (415) 864-8000, or visit the "Youth of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral San Francisco" Facebook group page.

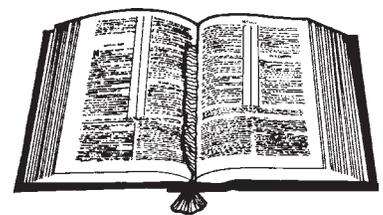
YOUNG ADULTS MEET FOR NIGHT OF CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

Our Cathedral Young Adult Group once again met on December 18 and together prayed a Vespers service in the Cathedral chapel, followed by dinner at Ristorante Capri on Market Street. A wonderful time was had by all, and we are proud to say that since starting in March of 2009, our young adult group had at least one meeting each month, including a church service during a festive season of the Church (August and December), with at least one new face at each event.

If you are interested in being part of our young adult events (for those ages 18-35ish) for 2010, contact Deacon Niko Bekris at (415) 864-8000, or visit the "Youth of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral San Francisco" Facebook group page.

JOY GROUP TO BEGIN THIS MONTH!!!

The Annunciation Cathedral is set to begin a JOY group this month! The youth group, in effect, would be for children between 3rd and 6th grade, and would consist of fun activities, faith lessons, and some outdoor events. If any parent is willing to volunteer for this ministry, please contact **Deacon Niko Bekris** at (415) 864-8000, or deacon@annunciation.org.



YOUTH BULLETINS: JANUARY

“A Holy Gift”

Included below is December's bulletin, in addition to January

Part 3 of 4, By Rev. Deacon Niko Bekris

I'll admit I'm a huge baseball fan, but I never understood what bases had to do with dating. People refer to first, second, etc when it comes to dating, and I guess the further you go with someone physically, the further you go along the bases, right? It seems there are a lot of messages floating around in our society about relationships, specifically about physical relationships; how far you're allowed to go, how everything's okay as long as both people consent, how it's okay as long as it doesn't affect your happiness, etc. When a person hears these kinds of messages, you almost say to yourself, “Yeah, I know that the Church teaches to wait until marriage to have sex, but is that even realistic today? Does anyone even do that?”

Two months ago, I shared that true romantic love is just as much a function of the soul as of the body, and some thoughts about what our understanding of love should be. Last month I shared some thoughts about the next step, dating, and how any romantic relationship is fulfilled when it is centered around God and our being selfless, not selfish. This month, I'd like to share some thoughts about another dimension of relationships--physical relations--and to seriously look at this question, because it is something we're faced with today, and not just in high school. Given the fact that messages about physical relations are thrown around today in TV, movies, music, billboards, everywhere, I feel it's important that we bring an awareness to our Church's message about this topic, and ask ourselves, Is this even possible anymore?

First, I would ask the following- Have you ever dated someone, not done anything physical with them, and then stopped seeing them after things didn't work out? How hard is it to stop seeing that person? Now consider how hard it is to stop seeing someone you have done something physical with, even just kissed? ***It is much harder to stop seeing someone who you have done something physical with, because physical relations create an even deeper connection between two people.*** It's true, and yet we barely ever consider it. When your love, not lust, grows for someone romantically, you want to share something with the person beyond just a hello or a hug. This is something very natural and human that God has given us. And yet, God knows

that physical relations between a man and a woman do bring them closer together, and ***He wants us to experience this in a safe, healthy way, and not get hurt.***

If you have sex with someone, or do anything physical with someone, and later that person decides they don't want to see you anymore, it is very, very hurtful. On the other hand, if two people share physical intimacy within the context of a married relationship, there is safety, security, and commitment there that allows that love to be fulfilled- especially if two people in a marriage do their best to emulate Christ's love in their love for one another. In other words, ***God wants you to guard your heart.*** God has given us something tremendously special, a holy gift, and He doesn't want us to emotionally burn ourselves out, or disrespect our bodies by treating sex as if it weren't a blessing. It is not about how many “bases” someone gets to. It's not about “getting with someone.” If you allow God to guide your relationship with someone- your body and your soul- and you wait until marriage to have sex, you will experience a healthy relationship and God won't let you down. Dating is a time to just focus on getting to know more about yourself and about what kind of person you gel with, and God willing, who you ultimately will marry.

Which leads me to next month's topic... **“Bless Them, O Lord”**

Part 4 of 4 by Rev. Dn. Niko Bekris

“Everlasting God, those who were divided You brought into oneness, setting for them an unbreakable bond of love; You blessed Isaac and Rebecca and made them heirs to Your promise. Bless these Your servants, guiding them into every good work.”

About a month ago I had the rare pleasure of going to a movie with my wife and two other friends of ours. I'll just come out and say it- the movie was “New Moon” (the sequel to the ultra-popular “Twilight” movie and book series, in case you've been living under a rock the last year). There, I said it. Even though I can also say that it was definitely not tailored towards my target audience, I am still amazed at how popular this movie is with female fans of all ages (not just high school, as it turns out), and how this series is capturing American teenagers imaginations. The biggest reaction from these teenagers, though, was at the end of the movie (******stop reading here if you don't want to know what happens******) when Edward says to Bella, “Marry me, Bella.” Like any successful teenage romance movie, love is the central theme of the movie, and much to the delight of everyone in the theatre, the perfect

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“happy ending” of many movies is mentioned at the end of this movie- marriage.

People love weddings. We love seeing two friends or family members tie the knot. We love seeing two characters that we’re attached to in a book, movie, TV show, song, etc, get married when they fall in love with each other. In every culture, in every country, in every time period, few events are more joyful than a wedding. The same held true for Jesus’ time, when His first miracle was turning the water into wine at the wedding of Cana, (John 2) which once again affirmed the holiness of marriage in God’s eyes. The same is true in our time and in our faith today. It is a celebration of life and love. Marriage, in its purest form, is two people committing their lives to one another, before God, and allowing God to sanctify them and guide them through life- joy, sorrow and everything in between- to the Kingdom of God.

The sacrament of marriage is where love between two people finds its richest fulfillment in this life. I’ve shared some thoughts these last few months about love, dating, and physical relationships, and the underlying theme I

hope I’ve conveyed is that in all of these, God needs to be the central focus. In Jesus Christ, Who is God, and Who is love, our love for another person is strengthened and made full. Even though we don’t hear this message too often these days, I would urge all of us who are not yet married to focus ourselves on this beautiful sacrament. Allow God to guide you in His love to the right person He knows is best for you, even if it is a few years down the road. By doing so, you won’t have to worry about feeling loved or feeling valued, because you will know you are. If we allow God to guide us to that right person, and center our relationship around Him, we will have that “unbreakable bond of love” in our life with our spouse.

During that time, you’ll probably have to go to a movie you don’t want to see at some point, too, but hey, no one said it was going to be easy. But it will be blessed.





Sacraments & Services

WEDDING

**Monoli (Mike) Fanourg-
iakis** and **Demetra (Mia)
Kosmas** were married at
the Holy Trinity Church on
November 21. Their koum-
baros is **Christopher Carlos
Doukakis**.

Na mas Zisoun! (Long life!)

ENGAGED

Congratulations to two of
our young adults, **Jenica
Rangos** and **Jason Welch**,
who were recently engaged
last month!

I Ora i Kali!



ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH THE CATHEDRAL'S WEB SITE

Currently, the Cathedral's web site (www.annunciation.org) is in need of some loving redesign. (You may have noticed our recent attempts to update its look.) We envision the web site to assist our parishioners, and also be a useful tool to communicate information about the Annunciation Cathedral experience to the Bay Area and, eventually, beyond. As such, we are looking for creative, energetic individuals who would like to participate in enhancing the Annunciation Cathedral experience by devoting time to brainstorm the design. This would require a time commitment of several weeks. If you are interested in becoming a part of the design team, please call the Cathedral at 415 864-8000.

Breakfast is one of the most neglected meals, yet it is important because it takes place at the beginning of the day. During those hours the family often seems to be simply running a relay race, to get everyone ready in time for work or school. Nonetheless, apart from morning prayer, which goes without saying, it would benefit children to begin the day with even five minutes' experience of their mother's and father's concern, love, and interest in what everyone is going to do that day. When a child leaves for school the mother can bless him, or pray: "God bless" or "the Mother of God be with you." All this does not only further psychological security; it is a safeguard against any negative influences the child may meet, and it is a link between the two worlds of home and school.

*Sister Magdalen
Children in the Orthodox Church Today*

J A N U A R Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
					Circumcision of the Lord/ St. Basil's Orthros 9 a.m., Liturgy 10 a.m.	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m. Parish Council Oath of Office		Great Hours, 9 a.m. Liturgy, 10 a.m. & Blessing of the Waters Dance Practice 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Theophany, Orthros 9 a.m., Blessing of the Waters 10 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	St. John the Baptist, Liturgy 10 a.m. Philoptochos, 1 p.m. Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.		Eritrean School Resumes, 10 a.m. - noon Greek School Resumes, noon to 2 p.m.
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. <i>Vasilopita</i> following the Liturgy Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m.		Dance Practice 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. FDE, San Jose	FDE, San Jose	Community Link, 9 a.m. Eritrean School, 10 a.m. - noon Greek School, noon. - 2p.m. FDE, San Jose
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m. FDE, San Jose	St. Athanasios, Liturgy 10 a.m.	Dance Practice 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Parish Council, 7 p.m.	Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.		Eritrean School, 10 a.m. - noon Greek School, noon. - 2p.m.
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m.		Dance Practice 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m.	Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Basketball Practice, 6:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m.	Crab Feed	Eritrean School, 10 a.m. - noon Greek School, noon. - 2p.m. Three Hierarchs, Liturgy, 10 a.m.
31						
Orthros 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy 10:30 a.m. Class on Orthodoxy 9 a.m. Dance practice 12-1 p.m.						



Η ΕΝΙΣΧΥΣΗ ΣΑΣ ΓΙΑ ΤΟ ΕΤΟΣ 2010

Ευχαριστούμε τα μέλη του Καθεδρικού για την ενίσχυση των διαφόρων προγραμμάτων που παρέχει η Κοινότητα. Όπως είναι γνωστό, η κοινότητα χρηματοδοτείται από τις δωρεές των πιστών της· δεν έχει άλλους πόρους εκτός από αυτούς που προσφέρετε εσείς, κυρίως μέσω του προγράμματος που λέγεται στούαρντσιπ. Στις 15 Νοεμβρίου, πέρυσι, άρχισε η εκστρατεία για να συλλέξουμε τις δηλώσεις (υποσχέσεις) των πιστών μας για την ενίσχυση του έργου της Εκκλησίας. Η προσπάθεια αυτή αποπερατώθηκε στις 6 Δεκεμβρίου. Μέχρι τις 20 Δεκεμβρίου (ημέρα τυπώσεως του παρόντος δελτίου) ελάβαμε τις δηλώσεις όσων τα ονόματα τυπώθηκαν στο πρωτοσέλιδο άρθρο του δελτίου μας. Τους ευχαριστούμε. Παροτρύνουμε τα υπόλοιπα μέλη, που για οποιονδήποτε λόγο δεν απέστειλαν τις δηλώσεις τους, να το κάνουν μέχρι τέλους του μηνός, έτσι ώστε να γνωρίζουμε ποιός θα είναι ο προϋπολογισμός της Κοινότητας για το τρέχον έτος. Συνήθως, είναι γύρω στα 600.000 δολλάρια, τα μισά, περίπου, από τα οποία έρχονται από την προσπάθεια αυτή. Τα υπόλοιπα έρχονται από το φεστιβάλ και από άλλες πηγές, πάντως όλα εκπροσωπούν την αγάπη και την αφοσίωση των μελών του Καθεδρικού Ναού. Θα θέλαμε πολύ ο αριθμός των δωρητών να αυξηθεί εφέτος, γύρω στα 600, ακόμη και παραπάνω. Βοηθείστε μας να επιτύχουμε τον στόχο αυτό. Έτσι, σαν μία δυναμική Ελληνορθόδοξη οικογένεια να βάλλουμε μπροστά και την οικοδομή του Ναού, προς δόξαν Θεού. Για τυχόν ερωτήσεις, παρακαλείσθε όπως επικοινωνήσετε με το γραφείο της Κοινότητας, στο 415 864-8000. Στο μεταξύ σας ευχόμαστε ευτυχές το Νέον Έτος, υγεία, ειρήνη και ευλογία Θεού στον καθένα σας.

ΑΠΟΤΕΛΕΣΜΑΤΑ ΕΚΛΟΓΩΝ ΚΟΙΝΟΤΙΚΟΥ ΣΥΜΒΟΥΛΙΟΥ

Όπως γνωρίζουν όλοι, στις εκλογές που έγιναν στις 13 Δεκεμβρίου εξελέγησαν οκτώ μέλη, για δύο έτη. Αυτά τα οκτώ μέλη, μαζί με τα επτά που εξελέγησαν το 2008, μαζί με τον Ιερατικό Προϊστάμενο, αποτελούν το Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο του Καθεδρικού Ναού. Αφού οι εκλογές εγκριθούν από τον Σεβασμιώτατο Μητροπολίτη μας, κ. Γεράσιμο, τα οκτώ αυτά μέλη θα ορκισθούν την

Κυριακή 3 Ιανουαρίου, στο τέλος της Θείας Λειτουργίας και αμέσως θα συνεδριάσουν ώστε να εκλέξουν τους αξιωματούχους του Συμβουλίου για το τρέχον έτος. Συγχαίρουμε τα νέα μέλη του Συμβουλίου και ευχόμαστε ό,τι καλό στο Κοινοτικό Συμβούλιο, που φροντίζει για την διοίκηση του Καθεδρικού Ναού και που έχει αναλάβει την ηγεσία της οικοδομής του Ναού. Τα οκτώ μέλη είναι, ο Γιώργος Βλάχος, ο Δημήτρης Βορρίσης, ο Κώστας Βουτσιλάς, ο Γιάννης Κουντούρης, η Παρασκευή Τσουγκαράκη Νεύγερ, ο Αθανάσιος Νούρης, και ο Νίκους Σβετκόφ

Η ΓΙΟΡΤΗ ΤΗΣ ΒΑΣΙΛΟΠΗΤΤΑΣ ΣΤΙΣ 10 ΙΑΝΟΥΑΡΙΟΥ

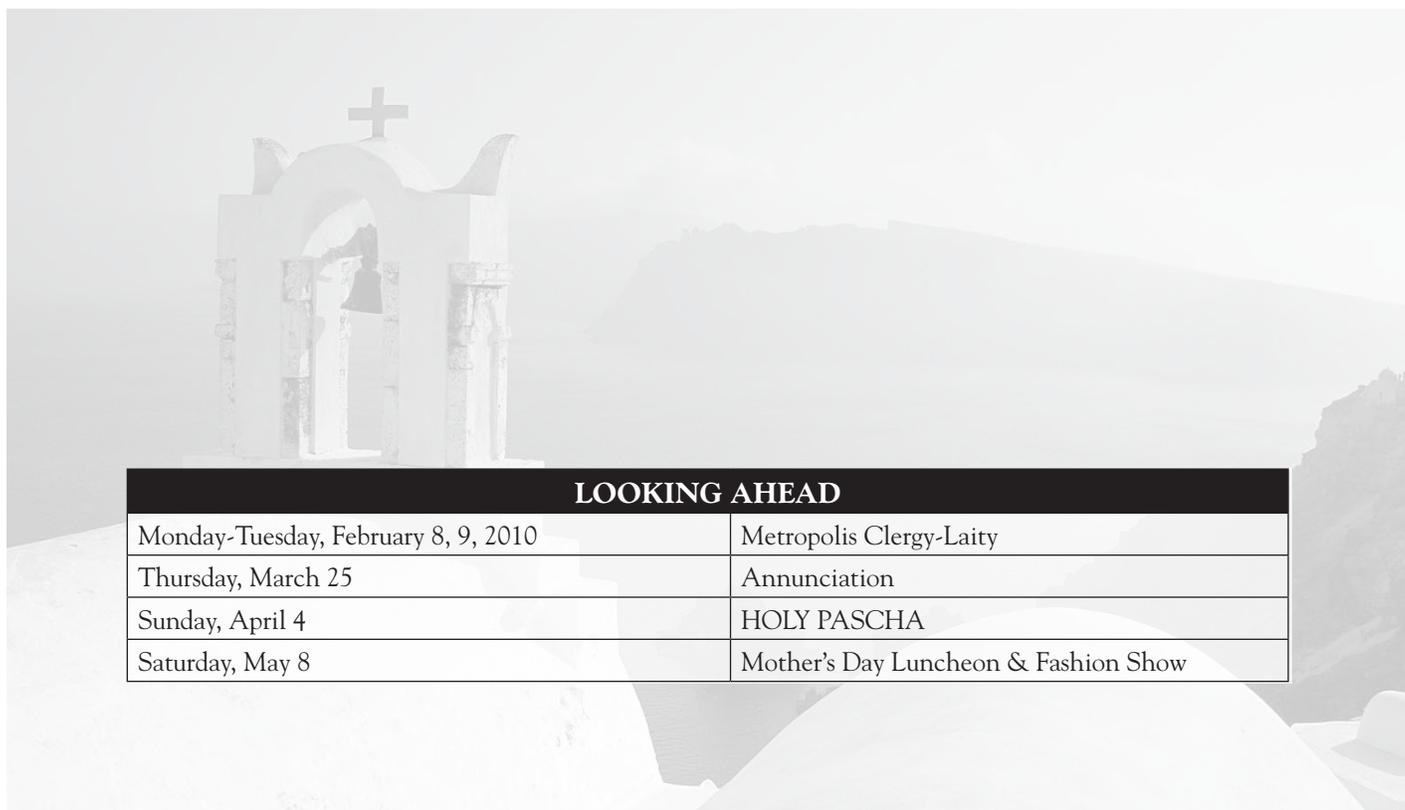
Καλούνται όλοι, μέλη και φίλοι του Καθεδρικού όπως παρευρεθούν στην εορτή της Βασιλόπηττας, που θα λάβει χώραν εις τον χώρο δεξιώσεων την Κυριακή 10 Ιανουαρίου μετά τη Θεία Λειτουργία. Είναι ευκαιρία να υποδεχθούμε τον καινούργιο χρόνο, ψάλλοντας τα κάλανδα της πρωτοχρονιάς, και ενισχύοντας το φιλανθρωπικό έργο που εκτελεί η Φιλόπτωχος Αδελφότητα, που οργανώνει τον εορτασμόν αυτόν. Σημειώνουμε ότι ο εορτασμός αυτός για μας τους Ελληνορθοδόξους είναι πατροπαράδοτος, από τον 4ο αιώνα τουλάχιστον, όταν ο Άγιος Βασίλειος, Αρχιεπίσκοπος της Καισαρείας της Καππαδοκίας μοίραζε φλουριά (χρυσά νομίσματα) στους φτωχούς, βάζοντάς τα σε πηττες τις οποίες έδινε σε φτωχές οικογένειες. Γι' αυτό λέμε στα Κάλανδα της Πρωτοχρονιάς " Άγιος Βασίλης έρχεται..." Θα χαρούμε πολύ να σας δούμε.

Η "ΓΙΟΡΤΗ" ΤΟΥ ΚΑΒΟΥΡΑ

Και αυτο το δείπνο, επίσης, οργανώνεται από τις κυρίες της Φιλοπτώχου Αδελφότητας του Καθεδρικού Ναού. Θα λάβει χώραν εις την μεγάλη αίθουσα του Καθεδρικού Ναού την Παρασκευή 29 Ιανουαρίου, με δεξίωση στις 6 μ.μ. και δείπνο στις 7:30 μ.μ. Η προσφορά παραμένει 45 δολλ. το άτομο. Για να κλείσετε θέσεις η για περισσότερες πληροφορίες, τηλεφωνείσθε στο γραφείο της Κοινότητας, στο 415 864-8000 η στη Φούλα Βασιλογιάργη, στο 415 378-7200. Σας αναμένουμε και σ'αυτό τον εορτασμό, έτσι ενισχύοντας το φιλανθρωπικό έργο που εκτελεί η Φιλόπτωχος Αδελφότης του Καθεδρικού Ναού.

UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF
SAN FRANCISCO, THE ANNUNCIATION
ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103-2320

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LOOKING AHEAD

Monday-Tuesday, February 8, 9, 2010	Metropolis Clergy-Laity
Thursday, March 25	Annunciation
Sunday, April 4	HOLY PASCHA
Saturday, May 8	Mother's Day Luncheon & Fashion Show