



# ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94103 · 415 864-8000 · FAX 415 431-5860 · WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG

FEBRUARY 2016

## Save the Date: November 5, 2016

The Cathedral is planning a gala event to mark the completion of the exterior of its new house of worship, as it prepares to begin work on the interior, on the occasion of the Cathedral's 95th anniversary. (The Cathedral was established in 1921.) The Gala Committee is planning a memorable "black tie" occasion, with a number of unique firsts. They will share these with us as they are finalized, certainly, before formal invitations go out. In any case, the venue is the Cathedral itself. For now, please mark the date, November 5th, 2016 and get ready to celebrate.



## Wow!

What you see in this photo, taken against the San Francisco skyline, is the completion of the waterproofing of the dome. To date, the remaining roofing areas have been waterproofed and the installation of the windows has begun. We anticipate that the placement of all 135 windows will be completed by mid-February. This will be followed by the so-called chicken wire, scratch coat, and final coat of stucco, pavers, exterior stone work, etc. We anticipate the exterior will be completed by the time of our Gala on November 5, to celebrate this accomplishment, in our 95th year, as we continue to raise money to begin work on the interior. We've noted on a number of occasions that we have raised \$6 million towards the project, and have to raise another \$4.7 million to complete it. Meanwhile, people have been responding generously. Hardly a week goes by when we do not receive a few thousand dollars for the Building Fund. People are either paying down on their pledges or else are donating additional money to sponsor one or more windows, at \$5,000 apiece. It's slowly catching on. As of today, 25 windows have been sponsored, with 110 to go. If you are interested in giving one of the windows, we invite you to contact the Cathedral, at 415 864-8000. We thank God who has given us the great privilege of rebuilding His church to His glory. We glorify God for speaking to our hearts, in the words of Holy Scripture, when he

spoke to Moses, saying, *"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."* (Translated from the Septuagint: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἄγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). May we prove worthy of His trust.





## How Reminiscent of the Old Cathedral!

One of the things that strikes people when viewing the new Cathedral is how much it reminds them of the old Cathedral, before it was demolished as a result of damage from Loma Prieta (the devastating 7.1 earthquake in 1989). That's because of the pitched roof, the triple doors, the windows over the doors and the two bell towers, one on either side, reminiscent of early Christian churches. Although the old Cathedral was a reconfigured theater (it was the Valencia Street Theater until it was acquired in 1929), its exterior look was reminiscent of an early Byzantine church. Of course, it lacked a dome, which the new one has. An amazing central dome, in fact, that rises 75 feet in the air, and which will feature an icon of Christ *Pantokrator* (the ruler of all), when it is completed. The comparison of the façade of the old and the new was intentional, as we wanted to provide visual continuity, inviting those who were connected to the old Cathedral to easily transition to the new. In addition to the dome, the new Cathedral is much more spacious. It will also be vaulted, with arches everywhere, a characteristic of Byzantine architecture. As it shapes up, the outside makes a statement: it bridges the old and the new, and says, "this is a landmark church building." The inside is an experience in itself. It is meant to uplift, to elevate, to inspire. In a small way, it is meant to elicit a reaction similar to that of the Russian emissaries, a thousand years ago, when they entered Hagia Sophia—the Great Church, in Constantinople—and said, "we did not know whether we were in heaven or on earth...we encountered such beauty [in space and in the worship experience]."

## Who Would Like to Donate the Cross?

One of the crowning achievements of the new Cathedral will be the two Byzantine churches which will mark it as an Orthodox Christian house of worship. One cross will go over the dome, while the other cross will go over the front entrance, where the roof peaks, between the two towers. Start thinking. And praying. Perhaps you will be inspired to want to donate a Cross.

## New Parish Council Members receive Affirmation of Office; 2016 Parish Council constituted; Officers Elected

Following the affirmation of office, administered on January 3, the Parish Council convened to elect officers for 2016. The officers are: President: **S. Christopher Kyriacou**; Vice-President: **Dean Nicolacakis**; Secretary: **George Ambadiotakis Ambus, D.D.S.**; Treasurer: **Philippos Athanasiades**; Assistant Treasurer: **Nicholas J. Rally**. The remaining lay members of the Parish Council are: **Patricia Aleck, George Gavros, Deno Konstantinidis, Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., Bashar Nashawati, Thomas A. Nuris, Esq., Paul P. Sogotis, Nikolas Stathopoulos, D.D.S., Nicholas Svetcoff, and James D. Vorrises**. As we went to print, we learned that one of the above members will be stepping down and someone else will be elected in that person's place; also that the Secretary is likely to change. These will be action items at the January 24 meeting of the Parish Council.

## Purchase on Amazon.com and Support the Cathedral!

As announced, the Cathedral has been receiving small donations from Amazon.com's AmazonSmile program, in which the Cathedral has been enrolled for about a year. If you sign up for AmazonSmile (this is 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'.

*"The Lord's mercies are innumerable."*  
– St. John of Kronstadt



Taken on January 11, this photo shows the interior of the Cathedral, looking east. Fire sprinklers are being installed in the apse and in the dome and, soon, the remaining windows will be installed. The windows, crafted for the Cathedral by Pella, 135 in all, are metal on the outside and oiled walnut on the inside. Together with the mahogany details, they will provide warmth against the stone, steel, marble and concrete finishes.

## Thrilling is an Understatement

What a thrill as we watch this magnificent house of worship evolve: it represents everything we are and everything we believe as Greek Orthodox Christians. It is also a symbol of the faith that our own generation has cultivated, and what we hope to leave behind, to inspire the generations to come. Those who have viewed the interior are in awe. The space is meant have a transforming effect, which is how we should feel as we enter the church building for worship.

As for funding, as noted above, we've raised \$6 million towards this project, with another \$4.7 to go. As of this writing, we've borrowed \$1.4 million from Five Star Bank, against a \$6 million line of credit. As for a projected timetable for completion of the project—we anticipate the exterior of the building will be complete by fall, 2016, at which time we will be able to utilize the garage, which will have a functioning elevator and lobby. We are planning to celebrate the occasion, as we get ready to begin work on the interior of the Cathedral, by holding a **Gala. Saturday, November 5** has been set as the date **for the Gala.** (See the front page of this *Herald* and look for your save the date card which will come in the mail.) People ask, "When will we be able to worship in the new Cathedral

and when will the consecration take place." All this will depend, of course, upon fund raising. If all goes as planned, and the garage generates the income we project it will, work on the interior can begin in earnest the beginning of 2017. It will take about a year to complete, including appointments and iconography. We would then be looking at utilization of the Cathedral in 2018, and to its consecration to the glory of God some time before the community's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1921. While all this is challenging, it affords our community the opportunity to articulate a vision for the Cathedral for the next hundred years. Just as the founders of the Cathedral articulated their vision in 1921, it falls to our generation to express our own, in light of the Great Commission. The Great Commission is found in the Gospel according to Matthew. There (chapter 28, verses 19-20), the Resurrected Christ tells His disciples: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

We recall the prophetic words of His All-Holiness, Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, when he broke ground for the Cathedral on November 6, 1997. At that time he said: "The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified." We have our work cut out for us, to be sure. We are told, both in Scripture, and in the words of His All-Holiness, that our mission is to *grow* the Church. We are not to be complacent just with those who are currently members of the parish, but should become missionary-minded. We should become accepting. We should become more zealous. We should become more embracing. We should become more loving.



## Father Stephen offers prayer on Inauguration Eve

On January 7, the eve of the inauguration of Mayor Lee, Father Stephen offered a prayer at the interfaith service at the old Mission Dolores. The service was organized by the San Francisco Interfaith Council. Shown in the photo is Father Stephen with participants in the prayer service. The text of the prayer, adapted from one of the post-consecration prayers of the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, is as follows: "As we enter a new year, and all things begin anew, we pause to give thanks to You, O God, from whom all blessings flow.

see page 5

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# Honor Roll of 2016 Stewards

A church is only as vibrant as the faith of the people who make up the community. Annunciation Cathedral is blessed to have dedicated people, who worship regularly and who contribute, making possible the many ministries offered by their parish. Recently, we've had significant changes in the Cathedral's personnel. This does not, however, diminish the service which the parish offers to you, its parishioners, nor the level of support which the parish enjoys from you, its parishioners. If anything, it energizes our parishioners to expect, rightfully, more and better programs, as we engage in articulating a vision for our parish for its second hundred years. What follows are our 2016 Stewards to date, i.e. those who have submitted their 2016 Stewardship pledge card, as of January 10, 2016, supporting the Cathedral's ministries. We acknowledge your support and we thank you. If, for some reason, you have not sent in your 2016 Stewardship pledge card yet, we invite you to do so at your earliest convenience. If you have misplaced your card, please call the Cathedral office at 415 864-8000, and we will be happy to send you another card. If you prefer, you may pick up a card when you come to the Cathedral for worship, or you may speak with Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Committee Chair, or with Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org.

Aleck, Demetria  
Aleck, Patricia  
Allen, Maria & Andrew  
Ambus, Anthony & Zetta  
Ambus, Dr. George & Tessa  
Ambus, Dr. Terry & Marina  
Armatas, Christina  
Argyres, Ackie  
Arvanitidis, Athena & Nicholas  
Arvantelis, Agapi  
Asimos, Chrisula  
Athanasiaides, Philip & DIALA  
Bagatelos, Emily  
Balian, Annamaria & Robert  
Bardis, John & Kathleen  
Barlas, Constantine  
Bissas, Maria  
Bozionelos, Pete  
Cardellini, Marie  
Carter, Eleni Larissopoulos  
Chiappari, Philip & Annette  
Chiappari, Yvonne  
Cocoles, Stanley  
Curd, Vivian & John  
Cusulos, Nan  
Dakis, Elli & James  
Dalianes, Athan & Marguerite  
Danielidis, Maria  
Davies, Ethel C.  
Dedes, Constantina  
Dekaristos, Mrs. Anastasia  
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie  
Derdevanis, Charlotte  
Economides, Nicholas & Janine  
Efstratis, Jenny & Greg & Alexi  
Elite, Dr. Anthony  
Fkiaras, Evgenia N  
Fousekis, Mr. & Mrs. Vlasia and Kalliope  
Franco, Mrs. Helen  
Georgatos, Mr. & Mrs. Nicko M.  
Giannis, Demetrios & Rose  
Glafkides, Mr. & Mrs. Constantine  
Grampsas, Bonnie  
Hamberis, Lillian (Stavroula)  
Hamberis, Paul  
Holloway, Vicki Eleni  
Karas, Angelus  
Karas, Bill  
Karas, Eva  
Karas, Joanna  
Karas, Kathy  
Kasolas, Michael & Stella  
Katsanis, Gari

Keller, Sylvia & Jefferey  
Kenney, Danae & Knute  
Kintis, Mr. George  
Klobuchar, Michael & Georgette  
Koche, George  
Kokalis, Despina Nick  
Konstantinidis, Deno C. & Bella  
Kontonis, Mr. & Mrs. Nick  
Kosaris, Paul & Irene  
Kostoulas, Katina Kay  
Kottas, Angelos  
Kouropoulos, Georgia  
Koutoulas, Dina  
Koutoulas, Panagiota  
Koutoulas, Pete & Voula  
Kyriacou, Mr. & Mrs. Chris  
Kyriacou, Rev. Stephen & Aliki  
Lampros, Mr. John  
Lawrence, Effie & Stephen  
Leventis, Angie & Theodore  
Lingas, Elena O. & Zachary H Weiner  
Makras, Effie  
Makras, Elaine  
Makras, Sophie  
Makras, Thalia  
Manetas, Mr. & Mrs. Peter  
Markanton, Helen  
Markoulakis, Greg & Sophia  
Mattis, Mr. & Mrs. George  
Mavrakakis, Mary  
Mavroudis, Aglaia  
McKnight, Nektarios L.  
Meyer, Beverly A.  
Misthos, Michael & Christina  
Mitchel, Mary  
Monolakis, John S. & Demetra  
Moulas, Vicky A.  
Mountanos, Michael S. & Erika  
Mourgos, George & Dena  
Nager, Perri  
Nicolas, Michael & Helen  
Nicolas, Rita  
Novo, Dustin & Chrisula Bissas  
Nuris, Manoli  
Nuris, Manuel & Teia  
Nuris, Thomas & Liberty  
Oetzel, Robert & Pauline  
Panagiotopoulos, Anton & Sotria  
Panagotacos White, Connie  
Panomitros, John & Helen  
Pantages, Mary  
Papageorge, Mr. and Mrs. Petros & Nicole  
Papingou, Robert & Alma

Paras, Helen  
Parashis, Mary  
Patropulos, Joan  
Peters, Kenneth & Polymiti  
Petrou, Janis G.  
Pezo, Lester & Chrisoula  
Ponticas, Louis N.  
Poulakidas, Sakee & Irene  
Poulos, James & Despina  
Raggio, Nicholas & Anastasia  
Rally, Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas  
Rotter, J. Ward & Barbara  
Sahpazis, John & Irini  
Sarikakis, Emilia  
Sarikakis, Mr. & Mrs. Mike  
Simotas, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry  
Siouris, Michele Y.  
Skinas, Mr. & Mrs. Kosmas  
Sogotis, Mr. & Mrs. Paul  
Stamatopoulos, Michael  
Stathopoulos, Mr. & Mrs. Marios  
Stathopoulos, Nikolaos & Voula  
Stephens, Mr. & Mrs. Peter C.  
Svetcoff, Nicholas  
Tacticos, George  
Tamaras, Joy  
Taptelis, Tom & Helen  
Taylor, Mr. Edward  
Terzis, D.  
Thomas, James & Diane  
Thompson, Stephanie & Jeffrey  
Tonas, Basil & Mary  
Tsagaris, Eleni  
Tsokas, Mr. & Mrs. Dimitrios  
Tsougarakis, Mary C.  
Vafiadis, Nikolas S.  
Vafiadis, Steve  
Varanis, Terpsi  
Vasilogiorgis, Foula  
Vellis, Aris  
Vorrises, Angelo J.  
Vorrises, Denis J. & Renee  
Vorrises, Louise & James  
Vorrises, Marie & Lukehart, Ryan  
Vorrises, Mr. & Mrs. George  
Vorrises, Stephanie Louise  
Vouchilas, Gus  
Vouchilas, Leo and Michele  
Wiener, Carl A.  
Yannaghas, Mary  
York, Bessie  
Zarikos, Panagiotis & Angie

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continued from page 3

Above all, remember your servant Ed Lee, our Mayor, on this Inauguration Eve, and in this holy house, established the same time as our national declaration of Independence.

Watch over our Mayor and all our civil authorities in your goodness, Lord, and watch over this great city of San Francisco. Manifest yourself to us in your abundant mercies. Grant us temperate and healthful seasons and gentle rains, that the earth may yield its fruits. Bless the cycle of the year of your grace. Bring an end to the divisions of nations. By the might of your Holy Spirit bring peace to your world. Receive us all in your Kingdom, declaring us children of light, children of the day. Lord our God, give us your peace, your love. Amen.

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## 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](mailto:orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com).

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## 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 Pauline Oetzel at [poetzel@hotmail.com](mailto:poetzel@hotmail.com). Please keep Community Link and our home-bound brothers and sisters in your prayers!

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## Cathedral Office Team

In the December *Herald*, we thanked those who have been a huge help to us by helping us put together mailing materials from time to time. At the same time, we noted we have need for volunteering in the office on a daily basis. We are pleased to share with you that Snezana Xenytellis is in the office Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (Every other week, though, she is in the office on Monday rather than on Tuesday.) Mariam Arsinoos, our bookkeeper, meanwhile, is in the office early Monday morning and most of the day on Friday. However, as noted elsewhere in this edition, we would like someone to work a few hours a week doing computer work, entering data in our Parish Soft program (so that we can glean things like Name Days, and communicate with parishioners by e mail and in groups) and preparing mail merges, spreadsheets and the like. If you are interested in helping us in this way, please contact **Father Stephen**, at 415 864-8000 or [fatherstephen@annunciation.org](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org).

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## Cathedral Soup Kitchen

Although the Soup Kitchen is a Parish-wide undertaking, we are grateful to our Young Adults for taking the lead in preparing and serving the food at our Soup Kitchen the third Tuesday of every month. This month, the Soup Kitchen will take place on Tuesday, February 16, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In December, we had our greatest attendance ever—over 50 guests! The same was true for January. For the December and January Soup Kitchens, members of the Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos joined the young adults, helped and

learned more about this important ministry. The ministry takes time to shop, to cook, to serve. It involves set-up, take-down, and follow through. In addition to feeding the hungry, the Soup Kitchen ministry has a nurse on hand and gives each guest items to take with them—mostly canned or packaged food items, but items to help keep people warm during this increasingly cold time of year. Thank you, all for, in feeding and for reaching out to the hungry, you are feeding and reaching out to Christ Himself.



Some of our guests at the Soup Kitchen



Some of the Soup Kitchen volunteers with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos

# 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](mailto:fatherstephen@annunciation.org) or Angie Leventis at [aleventis3@comcast.net](mailto: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 discount card; the Cathedral will pay \$7 of the parking cost for Stewards. To pick up a parking pass or to discuss your stewardship, please see Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Chairman. If you are a supporting member of the Cathedral, in other words a Steward, you get the card. Street parking is also available on Sundays, especially along the 217' construction zone in front of the Cathedral. For your convenience, an attendant is on hand each Sunday to monitor the drop off zone and direct parking to the parking 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. This relationship with the lot behind the Cathedral will end as soon as our own parking structure is up and running.

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## We Hear from one of our Newest Parishioners.

### About what? About icons and Orthodox spirituality.

Alexandria Brown-Hejazi is one of our catechumens. She is currently studying architectural history at Stanford University, working towards her Ph.D. Ali holds a BA from the University of California, at Berkeley, and an MA from Harvard University. She sent us the following, which we are sharing, with her permission, with you:

*This short essay was written for a course titled, "Commodities and Consumption in World History: 1200-1800" in the Department of History at Stanford University. The course offers an introduction to the material culture of the late medieval and early modern world, with a focus on writing histories through objects.*

Object: Icon of the Triumph of Orthodoxy Date: Late Fourteenth-Century Location: Constantinople Dimensions: height 37.8 cm, width 31.4 cm, depth 5.3 cm

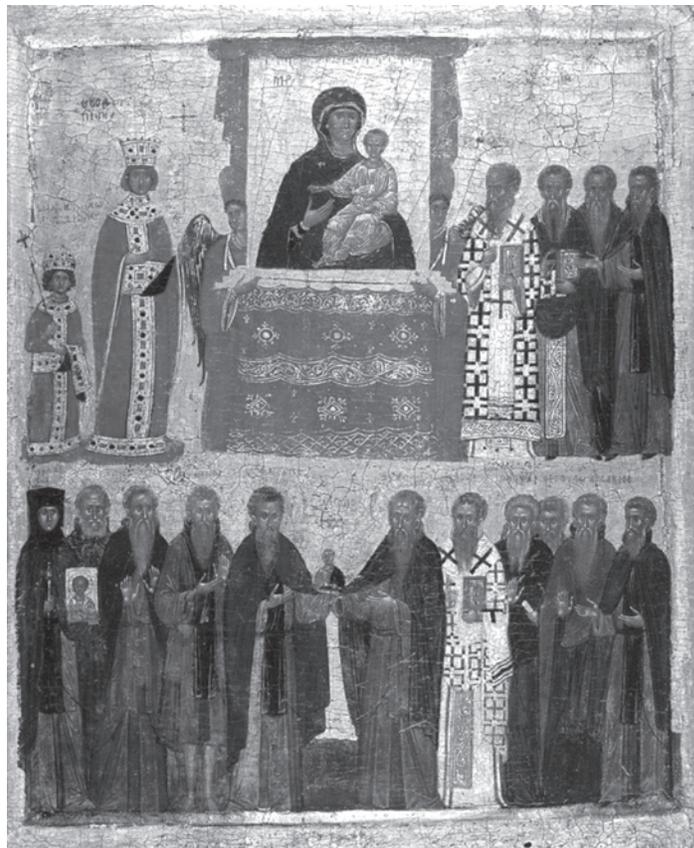
The creation of an Orthodox icon, above all else, is an exercise in spirituality. Unlike other religious imagery where the prominence of authorship might dictate the value of the work of art, orthodox icons have remained deeply spiritual objects of devotion and ritual.

In the delicate application of glittering gold leaf paint atop the wooden panel, the process of painting the icon was thought to transcend representation. In the slow process of painting the surface, the iconographer literally gives life to the sacred, and in the act of viewing the icon the worshipper is given visual access to the Heavenly realm.

What is so innovative about this specific icon is that it comments on this centrality and power of the object of the icon- and the potency of imagery- within the Orthodox faith during a very specific moment in history. Eleven saints and martyrs venerate an image of Christ in the bottom row. At the top, the imperial family venerate an image held by angels of the Virgin Hodegetria. To the left of the Hodegetria are Empress Theodora and her son Michael III; to the right is Patriarch Methodios, Bishop Theodore and two monks.

This focus on the objecthood of the icon itself is crucial in the understanding of the historical and political context of this icon's creation. At the close of the fourteenth-century, the Byzantine Empire and Orthodox Christianity faced the threat of Islamic expansion. With a decreasing population in Constantinople, a shrinking of support in the Christian West and the physical threat of Muslim invasion in the East the Orthodox church was in dire need of rejuvenation. By calling on pivotal events and individuals of the faith's history, this icon provided both spiritual strength and political legitimization of Orthodoxy as a still dominant religious power.

What this icon visually represents is the end of Byzantine iconoclasm and return of the primacy of the icon. As expressed, icons play a vital role in the practice of Orthodox faith. However, there



*The above icon, referenced above, is known as the "Triumph of Orthodoxy." This event is celebrated in Orthodox Churches the first Sunday during the Great Lent. This year, the Sunday of Orthodoxy falls on March 20.*

was a 150 year gap where icons were condemned. Around 700 AD, the rise of Islam as a religious superpower led many Christians to rethink the role of imagery in devotion. How could the Islamic faith that forbade the veneration of images rise to such domineering power- and those Christians that so dutifully venerated the religious image suffer such defeat? From 700-843, Orthodoxy also forbade the use of images within worship. This ended in 843 with the Empress Theodora. Faced with many of the same problems and threats as the late-fourteenth century Orthodox faith, the Empress made a powerful decision to reinstate the object of the icon. This icon became the festal image for the first Sunday of Lent- a day which commemorates the end of Byzantine iconoclasm and return of iconography to the church.

Ultimately, this icon symbolically represents the strength, persistence, and survival of the Orthodox faith and Orthodox ritual in the face of invasion, threat, and defeat. As an icon within an icon, and an image within an image, it also represents the continued spiritual power of the icon itself.

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## CATHEDRAL PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Greetings from Philoptochos as we enter the month of hearts, love and friendship! February is that wonderful month we reach out to friends and loved ones to remind them of their importance in our lives.

**Our annual Champagne Luncheon and Vasilopita**, held on January 10, was certainly a warm and inviting time for all who attended. Every one enjoyed the breakfast, champagne and most of all the Vasilopitas that were the best ever. Our team of Philoptochos women who prepared the breads truly outdid themselves. Our thanks go to John and Yvonne Stamatakis, of Stella Catering, for preparing the delicious breakfast. Also, thanks go to Presbyteria Aliko, Despina Kokalis and Angie Leventis who donated the champagne and to Deedy Aleck who donated all the coins for the breads, juices and Smart and Final baking products. We congratulate all who won the coins and wish them good luck for the year. A portion of our profits will go to Saint Basil Academy.

### Philoptochos Go Red Sunday – February 20

Go Red for Women is the American Heart Association's national call to increase awareness about heart disease, **the #1 killer of American women**. In women, heart disease is more deadly than all forms of cancer. To support the movement National asks all Philoptochos sisters and chapters to wear red, the color of our hearts, on a day in February that the chapter designates. In honor of this important movement Annunciation Philoptochos will wear red and sponsor coffee hour for the day. We ask all women to join the mission to increase heart awareness. Come join us for more info and find out why **Women Go Red!**

### Annunciation Philoptochos Membership - 2016

Why should I join Philoptochos? We join this National organization, 28,000 strong, to respond to those in need in our Churches, in our communities and in the world. We need **all women** in our Parishes to join to ensure a continuing legacy of healing, peace and hope for all that occurs in this changing world. The faces of Philoptochos are many and there is a place for women of all ages. It is imperative that our chapter grows in membership to meet the changing needs of what is happening in the world. Also, our chapter needs to ensure that younger women feel an important part of the work of our chapters. Be part of Philoptochos and embrace, evolve and give to others. **Join Today! We will be contacting you with further information on all of our projects and ministries. "Chosen and Appointed by God to Go and Bear Fruit"...Offering Healing, Peace and Hope**

### Annunciation Philoptochos Crab Feed –March 4

The Annunciation Philoptochos crab feed which was cancelled for January 29 will be held on **March 4**. We will present our delicious Dungeness crab as usual. The crab only will be purchased from the

states of Oregon or Washington and we have been reassured that the quality is superb and as good as ever. You won't want to miss out so get your reservations in early and enjoy another night of delicious cuisine provided by our hardworking Philoptochos. Look for the flyer in the Herald and in the mail. Much of the proceeds will go to our ministries and to the Cathedral building fund.



*Baking the Vasilopita, in preparation for the Vasilopita cutting and brunch on January 10, sponsored by the Ladies Philoptochos.* Now, let's see...that's 350 degrees, 45 minutes.



### Metropolis Philoptochos meets, tours new Cathedral

The Metropolis Philoptochos Board met at the Cathedral on January 12, 2016. At the start of the meeting, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos administered the affirmation of office. Following, the women were escorted into the new Cathedral, where they signed the steel, and where they took this group photo. The women were in amazement as to the beauty of their Cathedral's new worship space, and pledged their moral and monetary support.

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## YOUTH NEWS

### GOYA News

A meeting of the parents of GOYA age children (13 to 18 years old) took place recently. We thank our parents for meeting and considering the following : 1) articulation of a vision for the Annunciation Cathedral 2) immediate programmatic needs for GOYA, and 3) consideration of volunteer/paid non-parent Youth Worker. A date for parents and children to meet for a meal, for further discussion and for election of GOYA officers, in February, after FDF, was also considered, as were events for our youth, moving forward. Meanwhile, we thank you, the parents, for your continued vigilance on behalf of our children, as we endeavor to strengthen this youth ministry of our parish.

### Annunciation Dance Groups off to FDF

Our Metropolis annual Greek Folk Dance Festival (FDF) is right around the corner and our groups are busy preparing their suites of dances from various regions throughout Greece. This year marks the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event and the Cathedral is proud to be taking 3 groups this year: **Spithes**, our middle & high school group, **Thisavri**, our elementary school group, 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade, and **To Mellon**, preschool-2<sup>nd</sup> grade group. **To Mellon** is making their first appearance as an exhibition group with 17 dancers! FDF is being held right down the street from the happiest place on Earth, Disneyland! Anaheim, California is once again the destination for FDF 2016 and promises to be another fantastic year of making precious memories. FDF begins Thursday, February 11 and, following three days of intense competition, concludes with a Grand Banquet and Awards Ceremonies Sunday, February 14. For those who cannot attend and want to get a glimpse of the festivities, the final round of competition for advanced senior category that takes place on Sunday following liturgy, as well as the awards ceremony on Sunday night were both streamed live last year, online, and plans are in place to do the same this year. Please keep our groups, their directors, and our families in your thoughts and wish them luck as they go and represent the Cathedral.

We will be accepting new members to the dance groups following FDF. If you are interested, please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at [karthia808@yahoo.com](mailto:karthia808@yahoo.com). Meanwhile, our Groups are:

**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.**

### Sunday School News

Sunday School resumed on January 10th with class room lessons on Epiphany and St. John the Baptist. We will continue to have our music lessons the 4th Sunday of every month with a focus on teaching the students hymns for the Great Lent and Pascha.

The St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival is coming up in March. Our upper grades (4th-High School) will have the opportunity to choose and write about one of the topics provided by

the Archdiocese Religious Studies and then present their speech in front of the congregation after liturgy on Sunday, March 6th. Although, the oral presentation of the speech is optional, every student will participate in the classroom writing assignment. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to express in writing and orally their feelings and beliefs about their Orthodox faith.

Please Note: Sunday School will not be held on Sunday, February 15th due to FDF (Folk Dance Fellowship) competition in Anaheim.

'Like'  
Annunciation  
Cathedral Sunday  
School!



### Summer Camp at St. Nicholas

The Greek Orthodox Metropolis of San Francisco is proud to announce the 36th year of its Summer Camp ministry at Saint Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center in Dunlap, CA. Organized by the Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, this program is a highlight of youth ministry throughout the year. All three sessions of Summer Camp are for campers ages 8 - 18.

#### The dates for the 2016 Metropolis Summer Camp are:

Staff Orientation Week - July 5-9

Session I - July 10-16

Session II - July 17-23

Session III July 24-30

*Due to high demand, campers are now limited to registering for only ONE session of summer camp.*

#### Pricing for 2016:

\$475 Early Registration (December 1 - February 29)

\$500 Normal Registration (March 1 - April 30)

\$525 Late Registration (May 1 - June 15)

All siblings receive a \$25.00 discount.

#### Online Registration

Camper Registration and more information is now available online at [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org).

You can make a deposit now to lock in the "Early Registration" pricing and make payments until June 15. Summer Camp Staff Applications are coming soon and will be available online at [www.gosfyouth.org](http://www.gosfyouth.org)

For questions, please contact Johanna Duterte, Director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries, [JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org](mailto:JDuterte@sanfran.goarch.org).

### Greek School News

Greek School operates every Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Children, grades 1 through 8, have the opportunity to learn the language and culture of Greece by specially trained and skilled teachers. Greek School will not meet Saturday, February 13 (President's Day and also FDF weekend). In addition, it will not meet on Saturday, April 30 (Holy Saturday) or on Saturday, May 28 (Memorial Day weekend). The last day of the 2015-2016 school year is Saturday, June 11.

*Excerpt from a sermon by Saint Gregory Palamas on the Entry of the Mother of God into the Holy of Holies: "The reason mankind was brought into being by God was so that they might apprehend with their senses the sky, the earth, and everything they contain, as visible objects, and by means of them go beyond them with their minds to invisible beauties, that they might sing the praises of God, the one Creator of all. No one could say, however, that the Virgin whom we now extol was made for this purpose, but rather in order to persuade those who beheld her to marvel at the Creator. She appeared on earth in all her manifold beauty, as a great wonder outshining heavenly luminaries and angels. It had to be so, because if "the king's daughter is all glorious within" (Ps. 45:13), her outward appearance and everything about her could not be out of keeping, but were rightly in harmony and concord with what lay within."*

## Altar Groups in February

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](mailto: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:

**February 7 - Group 1**

**February 14- Group 2 (some of the altar servers in this group will not be in church this Sunday, because of FDF)**

**February 21- Group 3**

**February 28- 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- Christopher Apostolos Percia, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, (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)**

## OYAA Basketball

Annunciation Cathedral Basketball Teams will play as follows in February (first game was played on Sunday, January 10):

### Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

At Holy Cross (Belmont): Annunciation Boys Middle School vs. Ascension 2, 1:00 p.m.

At Saint Nicholas (San Jose): Annunciation Boys Elementary vs. St. Nicholas 1, 10 a.m.

### Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup>

At Annunciation (San Francisco): Annunciation Boys Elementary vs. Holy Cross, 2:00 p.m.

At Annunciation (San Francisco): Annunciation Girls Middle School vs. St. Nicholas, 3:00 p.m.

At Annunciation (San Francisco): Annunciation Boys Middle School vs. Ascension 1, 4:00 p.m.

### Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup>

At Holy Cross (Belmont): Annunciation Girls Middle School vs. St. Gregory, 5:00 p.m.

At Holy Cross (Belmont): Annunciation Boys Middle School vs. St. Gregory, 6:00 p.m.

At Resurrection (Castro Valley): Annunciation Boys Elementary vs.. Ascension 2, 5:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup>: Playoffs at St. Nicholas (San Jose)

Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>: Championships at Ascension (Oakland)

We congratulate all our teas and wish them well as they participate in our church league, OYAA Junior Varsity, [www.oyaasportscentral.com](http://www.oyaasportscentral.com). Go, Annunciation!

## SACRAMENTS

Condolences on the falling asleep I the Lord of our sister **Helen A. Checopoulos**, on December 12, 2015. A trisagion was chanted on December 19. Helen is survived by a number of family members, including her children, George and Evan.

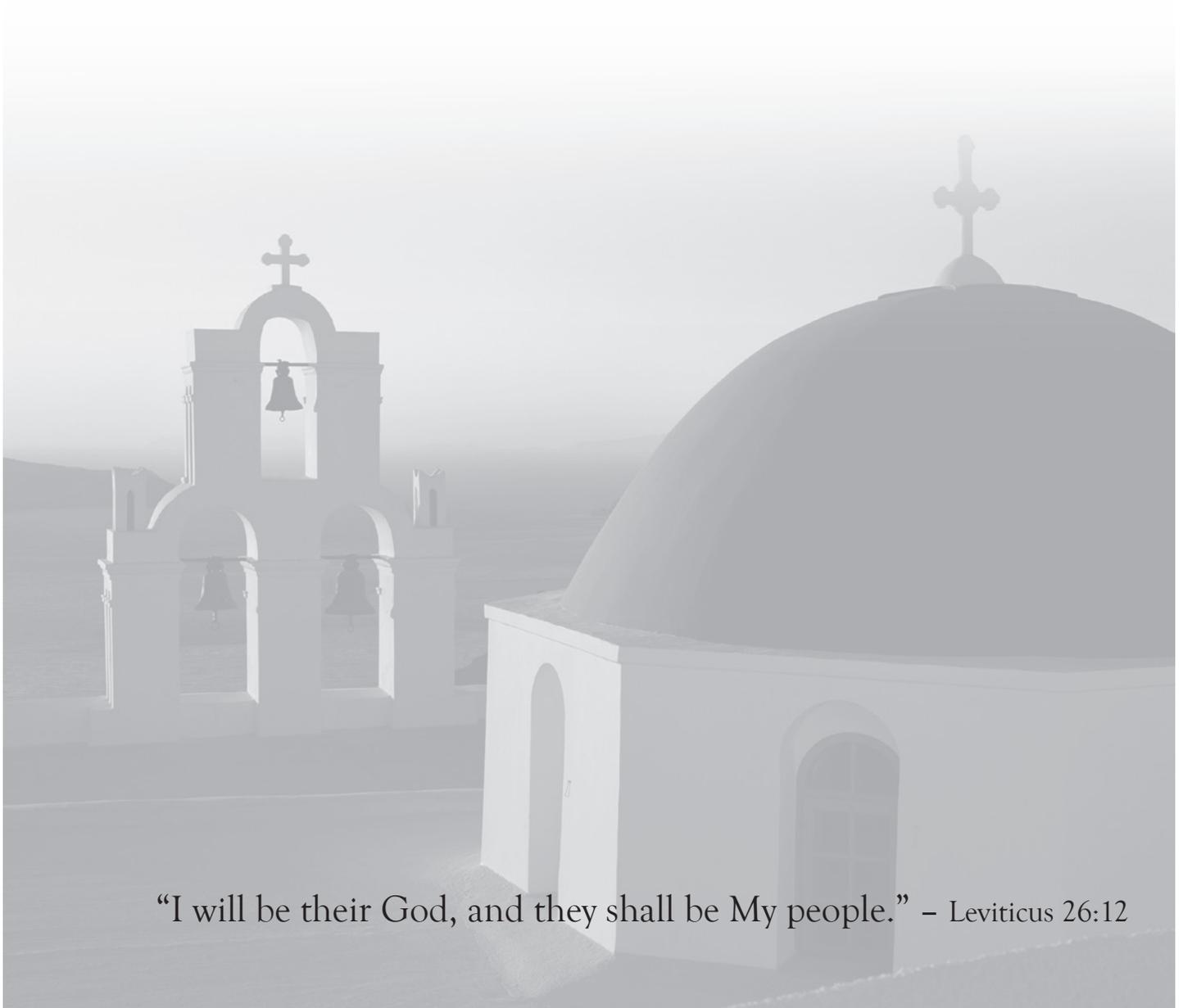
*Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal memory!*

# F E B R U A R Y C A L E N D A R

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		Ypapanti, Divine Liturgy, 10 a.m. Basketball practice 7 pm	Basketball practice 7 p.m.			Greek School, 10 am
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Dance Practice, Noon		Basketball practice 7 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am  Basketball practice 7 pm	Leave for FDF		
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am	Return from FDF	Soup Kitchen, 6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.  Basketball practice 7 pm	Basketball practice 7 p.m.			Greek School, 10 am
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Triodion Begins; Basketball Games		Basketball practice 7 pm	Construction Meeting, 10 am  Basketball practice 7 p.m.			Greek School, 10 am
28	29					
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Sunday School, 10:30 am Parish Council						

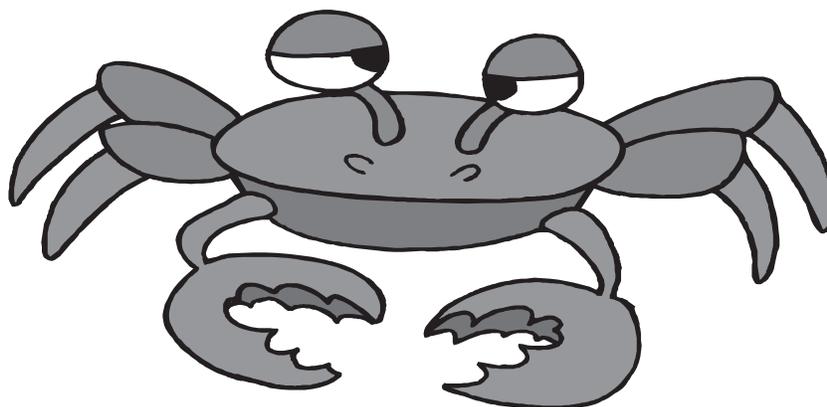
UNITED GREEK ORTHODOX COMMUNITY OF  
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“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” – Leviticus 26:12

*The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society presents its*  
**34th Annual Crab Feed Friday, March 4, 2016**  
— Featuring Fresh Crab —  
**Cocktail Reception: 6:00 pm Dinner: 7:30 pm**



**\$60.00 per person.**

**Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment.**

**For Reservations, Fill out and return this form to:**

**Annunciation Philoptochos**

**245 Valencia Street, San Francisco CA 94103**

**or E-mail: [Aleventis3@comcast.net](mailto:Aleventis3@comcast.net)**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ ticket(s) or \_\_\_\_\_ table(s)**

**(Maximum 10 people per table. Please include the names of all guests to be seated at the table)**

**Total Amount Enclosed** \_\_\_\_\_

**Make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos, Attn: Crab Feed**

**Please mail completed reservation form and check by March 1 to:**

**Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos**

**245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94103**

**Attended Parking Available**