



ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL HERALD



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

DECEMBER 2016

A MOST MAGNIFICENT TRIBUTE! OUR 95TH ANNIVERSARY GALA



The Korinthias Hall never looked so elegant. It was a wow!

Our newest parishioner: One-year old Anna Papageorge, Baptized November 19, 2016

“A NIGHT OF MAGIC” is how Archbishop Demetrios characterized the 85th, held 10 years ago under the Rotunda at City Hall. And it was magnificent. But, Saturday, November 5, our 95th anniversary, was even more so. It was spectacular. It took one’s breath away. If only because one first entered the venue through the unfinished Cathedral. Looking up, one saw all the greatness of our Orthodox Christian worship, with reminders of how it must have been in Constantinople those 1000 years of its existence as capital of the Byzantine Empire. Looking



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up, one also saw all that awaits us, as the Gala was about the future as much as it was about the past. It was about future generations and their faith in Christ. It was about this world of ours for which Christ died. It was about this human family which He is calling into oneness. And, so, the Gala had its serious side. It also celebrated the here and now. Upon leaving the dimly lit Cathedral, one came into the courtyard, magnificently tented for the occasion. The roof of the tent was clear, so guests had a view of the magnificently clear sky. There, in the courtyard, to the music of the Starlight Strings, guests dined on prosciutto and sushi, *paidakia* (lamb chops) and other delicacies. They drank champagne and greeted one another. Then, just past 7 pm, they were invited in for dinner. Iron Chef Cat Cora was on hand, overseeing all the preparations. She stopped for photos with anyone who asked, as she worked. Mandy Scott, meanwhile, oversaw the entire production, from service to lighting and sound, to table set-up and seating. She signaled it was time to begin. Tessa Ambus and Irene Kyriacou went to the podium and welcomed everyone, conveying why we are here and thanking everyone for coming. His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos offered the invocation and salad was served. Meanwhile, Christopher Kyriacou, Parish Council President, underscored the welcome and introduced Vicki Liviakis, KRON 4 News Anchor, as Master of Ceremonies. Vicki was most gracious. Truly, a San Francisco great. Jeannie Ranglas extended greetings on behalf of the Metropolis Philoptochos and also offered a platinum level monetary gift. Then, Alexander Agapiades, who had composed 5 pieces for the occasion, played on the Grand Steinway piano. He actually made it sing. What talent! Father Stephen, whose comments appear below, was asked to make some remarks. Following, Theodosia Roussos, accompanied by Anastasios Comanescu on the guitar, offered songs ranging from Nana Mouskouri to the Beatles. Then Iron Chef Cat Cora was presented. She spoke of her upbringing, her experiences before and after becoming Iron Chef, her heritage, and her family. Following, His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos offered a message (see below). This was followed by a historical video montage, which wowed the crowd, the benediction, and dancing to the Music of the Mythos Band and DJ Levendopedo, Peter Stamas. *What kefi!* It was a spectacular evening.

Even though the Gala was priced at \$350 per person, and people did not know what to expect, they certainly were not disappointed. Yes, one could say this or that could have been better (and we did take notes!), nothing could distract from the tone of the evening, which was upbeat and spectacular. All this takes work, of course. It takes leaders and it takes good hard work. And, so, we pause to salute those heroes of the evening who made it all happen: General Chairs: Tessa Ambus, Irene Kyriacou and Paul Sogotis. Honorary Co-Chairs: Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos, Ethel Davies, Archon Isidoros and Maria Garifalakis, Alexander and Mari Moulinos, Michael S.

and Erika Moun-
tanos, Tula Mour-
oufas, Dean and
Maria Nicolaca-
kis, Connie Pana-
gotacos, Dean and
Tami Rally, and
George Vlahos.
Reception and
Dinner: George
Gavros, Founder
of Zoe's Meats—
a Family of Arti-
san Food Brands.
George and his
team adapted Cat
Cora's recipes to
present the din-
ing extravaganza.
Wines: Steve and
Judy Padis, Sote-
rios Zervogiannis
Dessert: Paulina
Tsagaris, Pastry
Chef, Kokkari Es-
tiatorio

Dinner Music:
Starlight Strings,
Iconic San Fran-
cisco Ensemble
Piano Soloist:
Alexander Aga-
piades.

Mr. Agapiades, who was married in 2016 at the Cathedral to Myla Stephenson, produced his first album, *Feeling Free*, in 2012. He has since produced five new pieces, *In Another Lifetime*, which he gifted to each guest. Alexander played two pieces from his new work.

Vocalist: **Theodosia Roussos**. Ms. Roussos is an oboist, soprano and folk artist, who has performed with the Boston Philharmonic and at the Leadership 100 Conference. She debuted new arrangements, which she will be taking on tour Spring of 2017. Theodosia makes her home in Southern California.

Décor and Rentals (Simply spectacular):

Chrisoula Capetanos, Meena Vellis

Flowers and Centerpiece (the most beautiful

we've ever seen): **Katerina Sarikakis,**

Eleni Taptelis, Aristeia Tsigfourdaris

Reservations: **Foula Vasilogiorgis, Angie Leventis**

Anniversary Logo and Auction: **Nick Balian**

Photo Montage: **Kostas Petrakos Films; Greek**

Historical Society of the San Francisco Bay Area

Sound: **Randall Schiller Productions**

Photography: **Kostas Petrakos:**

www.kostasphotography.com

Public Relations: **Presbyteria Vasiliki Kyriacou**

On Site Events Coordination and Time



The most moving thing of all: Coming into the unfinished Cathedral, looking up at this most sacred space, with sounds of praise all around!

Line: Mandy Scott Events

Logistics: Larry Richard, Grace Koutoulas

Permits: John and Vivian Curd

Welcoming Committee: Christina Armatas, Alayna Dunkerly, Chris Knutzon, Deno Konstantinidis, Erica Roberts

Other: A number of other individuals attended meetings, on occasion, and offered their input both at the planning and the execution stage. You know who you are. You are amazing!

We, meanwhile, note that, prior to the printing of this Herald, upwards of \$100,000 was received in support of the Gala, and an additional six-figure gift to the Capital Campaign was made at the Gala. All this in response to what the Lord said to Moses: *"Build me a sanctuary and I will appear among you."* (Exodus 25:8)

A video of the Gala is being made and will be distributed to all guests. Meanwhile, to view photographs, search for the following:

www.kostasphotography.com/Gala2016

For the interview with Cat Cora by Vicki Liviakis: <http://kron4.com/category/features/dine-dish>

For comments, photos, etc., please visit the Annunciation Cathedral's Facebook page.



With Cat Cora and Father Stephen and Presbyteria Alik: George Gavros, who did a yeoman's job in the kitchen! And Paulina Tsagaris, pastry chef!

Various Church Fathers on the Nativity

The expression, 'in times past,' and this, 'in the end of the days,' shadows forth some other meaning: that when a long time had intervened, when we were on the edge of punishment, when the gifts had failed, when there was no expectation of deliverance, when we were expecting to have less than all, then we have had more.

St. John Chrysostom, Homily II on Hebrews 1.1.

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Metropolitan Gerasimos' Message at the Gala

His Eminence spoke last and delivered the following message, prior to the showing of the historical video montage: Tonight has been a very special moment in the long and storied history of this community. Your story is one of leadership and the dedication of the many families who established this community 95 years ago and the many who now call the Annunciation Cathedral their home. Like many parishes in that era, this community was founded in the controversy in Greece over the status of the monarchy versus democracy. Your founder, Archbishop Meletios Metaxakis, who would go on to become Ecumenical Patriarch, clearly had his loyalties with the democracy party and supported the creation of this community in that spirit. That becomes evident in the involvement of so many families not just to create the parish, but to sustain it and help it thrive, even during the darkest days of the Great Depression, when the people repurchased the building after it had been foreclosed on by the bank.

You have also had three clergy [of the 10 head priests of the Cathedral over the last 95 years] who served this parish and went on to become bishops in the Church: Philaretos, Polyefktos, and Meletios...I don't know of any other parish that can claim such a legacy. That speaks to the dynamism of these important leaders, but it also speaks to the environment of this community, one that allows good leaders to shine and become examples for the rest of the Church.

Today, your parish is as vibrant as ever, with the many programs especially for young people, GOYA, YAL, Sunday School, Greek School, athletics, and more, but also those serving the poor in this neighborhood through the Community Kitchen. I see how busy your community is on a regular basis, since for the last five or so years, the offices of the Metropolis have been housed here. This has given our staff a professional environment to conduct the work of the Metropolis from, far better than they had been working from the lower level of the Metropolis house. But importantly, it also helps them see that the work they do has a real impact on the life of a parish. It reminds us why we do what we do at the Metropolis level.

One of the most important milestones in your history is the building of the new Cathedral. This project has been 27 years in the making, from that devastating earthquake to what must have been the painful decision to demolish the old buildings, and then the commitment to rebuild. Of course along the way, you built the chapel, the hall and the offices, which has served you well all these years. But the real goal was to build a proper Cathedral. Now we can see the day when you will be able to use it for worship. While there have been many challenges along the way, your determination to find a way to build the Cathedral should be

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noted in the history of the Church. The leadership of the Cathedral all these years, especially your devoted *Proistamenos*, deserves special recognition for the continual pushing towards this moment.

Now the 100th Anniversary of the community is just 5 years away. I hope that before that day is celebrated, the Cathedral is complete, fully appointed with icons and furnishings and we are together at another gala to mark its consecration. I also want to challenge you as we close this evening. Tonight has been a true celebration of the wonderful history in this important parish in our Metropolis. We cannot just look back on history, but we must look forward to ream the future that we want to create. 95 or even 100 years are significant moments, but this community is still in its beginnings. 50 years from now, long after probably most of us in this room tonight have departed this life, what will this community look like, what will it be doing? The founders of this community may not have had the luxury to look too far ahead; their lives and existence were still too challenging, as new immigrants, as they labored to survive and then thrive in their new homeland. But we have succeeded to the point where we can make great plans for the future... We must think of the generations that will come after us... and work to create a Cathedral community for them, and one that they will celebrate, remembering what we did, just as we remember what our forebears did for us, that brought us to this moment of celebration and commemoration.

Father Stephen's Remarks at the Gala

Next to being proved right, I love being proved wrong. And, boy, was I wrong when I said, "Who would pay \$350 to come to a gala, in a church gym?!" You are absolutely amazing! I thank the committee for their vision and their determination. I thank you for being here.

Your Eminence, Honored guests...Tonight is about the future. It's not so much as what went before us as what will come after us. The building of this landmark church is about the future. It's about your sons and daughters. It's about your grandchildren. It's about the generations to come, from every walk of life. who will find hope and solace and healing.

This is what His All Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew meant, when he broke ground for the new Cathedral back in 1997. This church, he said--and he was speaking not just about the building, but about you and your faith.

"This 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." What is being offered here is the faith of the ancient Church but with a *new paradigm for the 21st century*. A Church that

looks to the Future. A Church that elevates the national and international discourse and lifts humanity up. A Church which mediates and radiates the love of God. A Church which knows no divisions, not of race, not of ethnicity, not of gender. For in Christ there is no Greek, no Jew, no male, no female, but all are one (Galatians 3:28). A Church that brings Christ's message of hope and healing to all throughout this great land and this great City, as it is being rebuilt in the Heart of the City. May we be worthy of this high calling.

Ο Θεός να σας ευλογεί και να σας προστατεύει πάντα.
God bless you for your presence and your support.

BACK TO BUILDING: Contributors to the Building Fund Are Renewing their Support

As noted,, the Capital Campaign Committee sent a letter to its contributors who had made a pledge to the Building Fund and have completed or who are nearing completion of their pledge, as well as to those who made a one-time gift, with a view to making another gift once they could see the progress. The letter was sent so as to give everyone the opportunity to renew their support of this historic rebuilding of the Cathedral, which is shaping up to be a landmark, in the heart of San Francisco. All this came about because of you and your faith, in this community and in its future. In response, a few parishioners-- entirely on their own--approached the Capital Campaign Committee and said, "we're accustomed to giving so much per month. We like what we see, and we want to continue giving what we've been giving." In some cases, they doubled their pledge or their gift. In other cases, they even tripled it. There's something to be said about the adage, "Build it and they will come." It's even more meaningful when one considers precisely what it is we are building. We are not just *replacing* the facilities lost to Loma Prieta (the 1989 earthquake that irreparably damaged our church). We are *providing* for the future. As one of our parishioners said one day after parking his car, on the way to the chapel for services: "My God, I looked up and saw something reminiscent of the old Cathedral, only it resembled the Holy Mother of God, arms outstretched, inviting the entire City to enter and to worship the Lord Jesus Christ!" In a word, that's our mission—to bring people to the Lord Jesus Christ. To share in God's love. To live with the hope of eternal life. We hope you share this vision with us and that you are supportive of this sacred undertaking.

For a union of two natures was made, and therefore we confess One Christ, One Son, One Lord. And it is with reference to this notion of a union without confusion that we proclaim the holy Virgin to be the mother of God, because God the Word was made flesh and became man, and by the act of conception united to Himself

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the temple that He received from her. For we perceive that two natures, by an inseparable union, met together in Him without confusion and indivisibly. For the flesh is flesh, and not deity, even though it became the flesh of God; and in like manner also the Word is God, and not flesh, though for the dispensation's sake He made the flesh His own...She brought forth her firstborn Son. By firstborn he here means, not the first among several brethren, but one who was both her first and only son; for some such sense as this exists among the significations of 'firstborn.' For sometimes also the Scripture calls that the first when it is the only one; as 'I am God, the First, and with Me there is no other' (Isaiah 44:6). To show then

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Lord, bless those who love the beauty of thy house (Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

Not to Put a Damper on Things

But the other day, a cover letter went out with the most recent Building Fund statements which was written in a *wake up and honor your pledge* tone. It was addressed specifically to those who have made pledges but either have not honored them or who contributed only a small token, after more than 3 years, noting that some \$800,000 is still outstanding, and that the Bank is expecting us to make good on our pledges before they continue funding our project. A meeting with the Bank was held between the Parish Council officers and the Bank and an agreement was reached whereby the Cathedral will do its part by raising the money needed to complete the exterior of the church (about \$800,000) and the Bank will do its part by continuing to fund the project. We are eager to get to the point (projected to be sometime in March) where the income from the completed garage will go towards paying down the Bank loan and enable us to continue until the interior is complete. We believe this is a most responsible approach to take and we are assured of the support of the parish as we go forward.

Lord, bless those who love the beauty of thy house (Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom)

Building Update

The new Cathedral's roof was completed in late October, and with that, the scaffolding was removed after a year and a half's work, revealing the nearly-complete Cathedral for all to see. Unfortunately, the "unveiling" took place after press time for this month's Herald, so look for photos in the January edition.

The remaining cast stone details - the wainscot around the whole Cathedral, together with pillars and door surrounds, plus the outside of the rebuilt courtyard fountain - will be installed once the deck waterproofing is completed. This outside waterproofing is needed because Mission Creek runs directly below our new temple. Nearby buildings without waterproofed basements have to run pumps constantly to remove intruding water. Over the life of a building, the pumps' operation and maintenance costs add up to much more than the added cost of waterproofing during construction.

Besides the waterproofing and cast stone detailing, the courtyard and surrounding walks will be finished with their cast stone pavers. These will be set in sand over drain rock, so that rainfall will percolate through the pavers and into slab drains, and from there to one of two percolation trenches filled with drain rock sitting on top of the sand layer of Mission Creek.

Once the waterproofing is completed and the parking garage will stay dry, the elevator installation and support work can proceed. The elevator and all other equipment serving the parking garage needs to be completed before the City will consider issuing a permit to operate the garage. The construction team is actively engaged in navigating the City's regulatory maze so that the application to operate the garage and its completion will be properly synchronized.

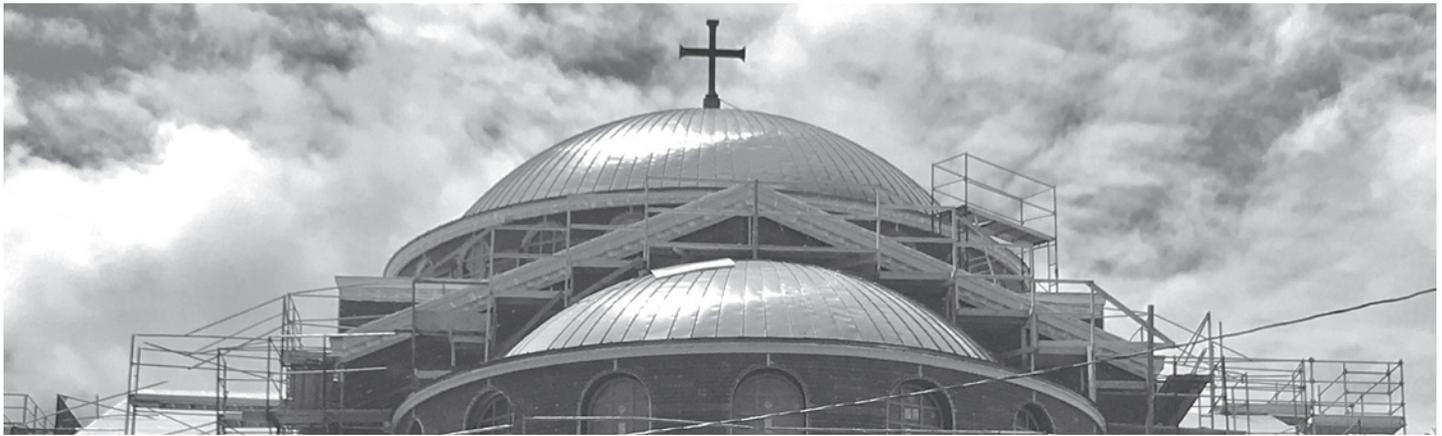
And the construction team is already planning the interior work, and we expect to have much of it completed by this time next year.

"We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, so that what you hope for may be fully realized." Hebrews, 6:11.

that the Virgin did not bring forth a mere man, there is added the word firstborn; for as she continued to be a virgin, she had no other son but Him Who is of the Father; concerning Whom God the Father also proclaims by the voice of David, 'And I will set Him Firstborn high among the kings of the earth' (Ps. 88:27). St. Cyril of Alexandria, Commentary on the Gospel of St. Luke, Homily 1.

And so, my brothers, the feast of the Nativity of Christ reminds us that we are born of God, that we are sons of

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

We've been hearing a lot about pledging to the Building Fund over a five-year period. What does that really mean? The chart below shows how, by thinking in terms of a per person/per day gift of a few dollars and cents, one can make a meaningful gift over a 5-year period. Please keep in mind that every cent given to the Building Fund is fully tax-deductible. And, every gift of \$1,000 and more will be acknowledged on the donor wall which will be placed in the new Cathedral. Meanwhile, if you would like to discuss donating something other than cash, something like stocks or bonds, or if you would like to learn about other donor opportunities, you may contact the Cathedral, office@annunciation.org, or speak with Father Stephen or Tom Nuris.

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

Gift Giving to the Capital Campaign

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

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

Parking during Construction (for a few more months-thankfully)

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.

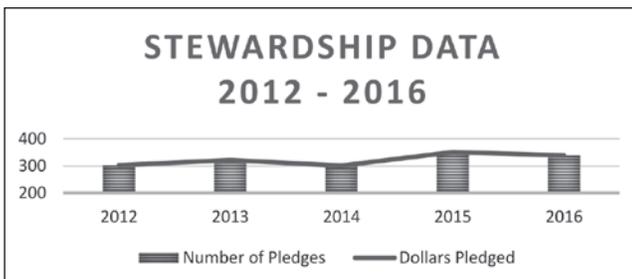
A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2015 was the highest in recent history and 2016 continues this trend, hoping to surpass it. Currently, we list 339 Stewardship units (families, for the most part), pledging a total of \$288,947 for the support of the Cathedral's ministries. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the Cathedral operating, the level of support is promising. The average pledge amount has increased over recent years and that is a testimony to your support. The average pledge amount for 2016 is currently just over \$850, a 13% increase over last year. With a little more effort, we can easily reach a \$1,000.00 annual pledge average. Our annual Stewardship pledge goal for 2017 is to make it to \$300,000. With your continued support, love for the Lord and His people, and willingness, we can easily attain our goal.

Stewardship Growth Speaks for Itself

Below is the most recent report submitted by the Stewardship Committee to the Parish Council at its November 20 meeting. It is self-explanatory. It shows that stewardship (that is, the support of the Cathedral and its ministries by means of an annual pledge) is continuing to grow. The term "unique 2016 pledges," meanwhile, indicates that a number of individuals who are pledging in 2016 had either pledged to the Cathedral prior to 2012 or, in most cases, are new to the Cathedral. We welcome them and thank them for their support.

STEWARDSHIP DATA	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2016
						Last Month / This Month
Number of Pledges	303	322	301	351	339	329 / 339
Pledged Dollars	\$253,844	\$251,670	\$234,092	\$299,637	288,947	284,347 / 288,947
Outstanding Balances 2016					38,488	51,125 / 38,488
Average Pledge	\$838.00	\$782.00	\$778.00	\$854.00	\$ 852.00	864 / 852
Number of pledges at 1000.00 or above					113	112 / 113
Number of pledges between 601 and 999					30	29 / 30
Number of pledges at 600.00 and below					193	187 / 193*
Number of individual 2015 pledges that have not pledged for 2016					82	82 / 78**



Report: Only 11k less than last year - final push needed
 Need 12 pledges to meet LY - 1 month to go- need final push
 Need final push for outstanding balances YTD
 Slight decrease in Average Pledge- still good over time
 Sent 3rd quarter reminder letters
 Working on online stewardship pledging with Nick Rally (?)
 Stewardship mailings being printed/sent
December 11, 2016 is Stewardship Sunday (Brunch offered by G&G)

God (1 John 3:1), that we have been saved from sin (Matthew 1:21), and that we must live for God and not sin; not for flesh and blood, not for the world which lies in evil (I John 5:19). What does the Incarnation of the Son of God require of us? It requires of us to remember and hold in sacred honor the fact that we are born of God; and if we have sullied and trampled upon this birthright with our sins, we must restore it by washing it with tears of repentance; we must restore and renew within us the image of God which has fallen and the union with God and blessedness, truth and holiness which has been destroyed. 'Now God became man, that He may make Adam a god' (Stichera for lauds of Annunciation). St. John of Kronstadt, My Life in Christ.

There is no need to fear that God should seem to suffer constraint in the tiny body of a child: for God is not in

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OIKOS Lecture Series Continues: Professor Klironomos, to speak

As announced in the Herald, as well as our weekly Sunday bulletins, OIKOS (Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services), under the direction of Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., and the assistance of Dr. Tony Elite, sponsors a series of talks aimed at informing, engaging, and edifying our parishioners in any number of areas involving individual and communal spiritual growth, family dynamics, and parish life. The lectures take place the first Sunday of each month, during the coffee hour.

Future speakers include Martha Klironomos, Dr. Anthony Elite, and Janine Economides, wife of Professor Nicholas Economides.

Our talk by Professor Martha Klironomos, which was scheduled for Sunday, September 11, is being rescheduled for Sunday, February 12, 2017, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, during the coffee hour. Professor Klironomos will speak on the Bloomsbury Group and how their travels to Greece and Italy inspired the integration of Byzantine motifs into their art. Professor Martha Klironomos has served as Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at S.F. State University. She has been teaching courses in Modern Greek language and literature and Comparative and English literature, at S.F. State University, since 1996.

We are grateful for this program, as we learn with our hearts and minds, and grow in the grace and knowledge of Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18)

Parish Council Elections December 11

As announced, Parish Council elections will take place on Sunday, December 11, following the Divine Liturgy. There are seven (7) vacancies which need to be filled. Those running are required to attend a Parish Council seminar. If a fewer number of candidates come to the required seminar (fewer than 7), then those parishioners are automatically elected (provided they each receive at least one vote). The balance will be made by appointing individuals from among the remaining parishioners in good standing. The appointment will be made in January, when the Parish Council convenes to elect officers for the year. (The 7 who are elected this year will join the 8 who were elected last years, as the Parish Council has 15 lay members.) Meanwhile, those elected and those appointed will serve a two-year term, January 1, 2017-December 31, 2018. Together with the Dean of the Cathedral, the lay elected members of the Parish Council administer the day-to-day affairs of the parish, as set forth in the Archdiocese Regulations and the Cathedral's By-Laws.

Community Christmas Card

Once again, Annette Chiappari, Kalliope Fousekis and Annamarie Balian are heading the Community Christmas Card effort. Each Sunday, through November 27, they have been on hand following the Sunday Divine Liturgy to invite your participation. For a donation of \$25. You've had the opportunity to have your name/your family's name listed. The card goes out early in December to about 1,000 families and is a wonderful way to extend greetings to your fellow parishioners and friends of the Cathedral. We thank you for your participation and for your support. (Look for the card in the special Christmas mailing.)

Community Link Continues Ministering to Those in Need

Community Link, going on its 10th 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. Please keep Community Link and our home-bound brothers and sisters in your prayers! Meanwhile, the Cathedral takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude to Pauline Oetzel for heading Community Link since its inception. Under her leadership, Community Link has "linked" the church community with our home-bound parishioners, offering hope and the message of God's love. We urge more parishioners to get involved with Community Link, as we plan for its future in the service of our fellow parishioners.

size, but in moral power... That moral power, without changing for the worse, took to itself the rational soul, and through that the human body, and the whole man, to change it for the better; in condescension taking from it the name of humanity, in generosity bestowing on it the name of nativity. St. Augustine of Hippo, Letters, 137.8

his works is one entitled The Life of Moses. It is of special significance because it reflects St. Gregory's spiritual sense of the Scriptures. St. Gregory maintained that the ultimate purpose of Scripture was not its historical teachings, but its capacity for elevating the soul to God. In this work, of which we cited excerpts in the October Herald, the saint offers a synthesis of earlier Hellenistic and Jewish traditions, in the effort to understand and aspire to the Christian God. He describes the spiritual ascent as

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PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

*“When they saw the star,
they were overjoyed” – Mathew 2:10*

Philoptochos sends our *warmest greetings* to our Annunciation Family as we celebrate the Birth of our Lord. Our members wish that the light of *His* love shine upon all this Christmas season and all through the year. Please put the following activities and projects on your calendar and join us as we greet this beautiful season with Peace, Joy and Love.

December 4, 2016

Join Philoptochos as we offer a special coffee hour to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season on the above Sunday following liturgy.

Vasilopita –January 8, 2017

Philoptochos will present its annual *Vasilopita and Brunch* on Sunday, January 8, 2017. We will be preparing the delicious breads on Thursday, January 5, with the coins for good luck for each table. We will also celebrate with a champagne brunch immediately following Church service. Let's break bread together and begin a New Year filled with hope for our Cathedral and the world.

See attached flyer

Crab Feed – January 27, 2017

Crab Season has begun! Our annual Philoptochos Crab Feed will take place on Friday, January 27, 2017. Check the flyer in the Herald and join us for a truly delicious and fun filled event. Our chair people are already in planning mode. You know you will enjoy the most deliciously prepared crab in town!

Angel Tree Project – 2016

As we do every year we have set up our Angel Tree and ask you to take an ornament tag with a child's name or family's name on it. The gift you purchase will truly help those in need. Vivian Curd and Mariam Arsinoos will make sure your gifts go to appropriate organizations to help in the best way.

Philoptochos Xmas Party - December 15, 2016

This year our annual Christmas party will take place at Val's Restaurant and Lounge at 2468 Junipero Serra Blvd. Daly City on Thursday on the above date. All are invited to join us as we celebrate and ring in this glorious holiday. Look for a flyer either in the mail or posted in the Narthex. For further info contact Kathy Dermitzakis @ 650-580-8325 or Foula Vasilogiorgis @ 415-378-7200. Join us and celebrate Xmas!

Once again our members wish you a season filled with family and friends!

SOUP KITCHEN:

thank you for volunteering!

As noted, the Soup Kitchen operates the third Tuesday of every month. It involves food prep, hall setup, serving the meal and---so important!---cleanup. We also have a food pantry, so a few awesome volunteers come early to bag up canned/non-perishable goods for our guests to take with them. Some volunteers arrive earlier, but the typical timeframe is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Won't you consider volunteering once in a while? All you have to do is show up. By the way, there's no age limit. We have teenagers volunteering and we have people "forever young" volunteering. It would be truly wonderful to expand our volunteer base, so we can do more. Please communicate your willingness to Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org. He will put you in touch to those who've taken the lead and are coordinating this important ministry. Thank you.



see next page for more photos



Not only do we serve others; the Community Kitchen is a great opportunity for fellowship among ourselves.



The main focus remains: "As you did it for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me" (Matthew 25:40).

Share this Link

Share this link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2702215> and ask your donors, volunteers, employees, and friends to bookmark this link so all their eligible shopping will benefit Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral.

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Copy and paste this message in a Tweet: Amazon donates to Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral when you shop @AmazonSmile. <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2702215>



Even without advertising (i.e. without passing out flyers) we have between 30 and 60 guests on any given third Tuesday. It's just become known that this Community Kitchen operates every third Tuesday of every Month, beginning at 6:30 p.m. We are morally obligated to continue this vital ministry, under the leadership of our Young Adults.

taking place in three stages, symbolized by the Lord's own revelation of Himself to Moses—first in light, then in the cloud, and, finally, in the dark. What is quoted here and elsewhere in this issue of the Herald are experts of the latter part of the work, namely, sections 305, 308, 317, and 318:

I think there is no need to prolong the discourse by presenting to the reader the whole life of Moses as an example of virtue. For to anyone straining to the higher life what has been said provides amply for true wisdom. To anyone who shows weakness in toiling for virtue there would be no gain even if many more things should be written than what has been said.

He was born when the Egyptians considered a Hebrew birth an offense. When the tyrant ruling at that time punished by his law everybody who was born, Moses triumphed over the murderous law, being saved at first by his parents and then by the very persons who laid

see next box

Young Adults



Young Adults just love hanging out. From a recent barbeque held recently at the Cathedral. In spite of the rain that day, those who said they'd be here were here. And what a great barbeque!

YOUTH NEWS

More Young Adult News

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped promote the **Metropolis Young Adult Fall Retreat** in your parish and to your local young adults. It was another inspirational gathering of 55 young adults coming together to learn more about their faith and strengthen the bonds of the Orthodox West Coast family.

Here is the video from the Fall Retreat:
<https://vimeo.com/190924377>

Thank you to all the parishes who send their Youth Director/Pastoral Assistants to these retreats. It makes a huge difference having them there since it is an opportunity for them to nurture relationships with the young adults in their regional areas, and then invite those young adults to attend their parishes and continue that ministry on a weekly/monthly base. These Metropolis young adult retreats are meant to compliment the ministry happening at the parish level, and I hope you are all able to fully benefit from them.

Feel free to share this video with your parish and other young adults seeking to stay connected to the Church and meet new Orthodox young adults.

The next young adult retreat is the **Metropolis Young Adult Winter Retreat in Lake Tahoe**, January 13-16, 2017. The max capacity is 60, and we always sell out, so make sure to register early! Our speaker will be Christian Gonzalez from the Archdiocese Department of Youth & Young Adult Ministries (Y2AM). Attached is the flyer.

For more information and to register online, please visit:
<http://www.youth.sanfran.goarch.org/editor/young-adult-winter-retreat-in-lake-tahoe-2/>

Facebook Event Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/553806771478512/>

Check out the 2016 Young Adult Winter Retreat Video:

<https://vimeo.com/153430756>



GOYA News

Goya gathering Kontonis home 11-6-16

Things are a movin', thanks to a great group of kids, an equally great group of parents, and a great GOGA Advisor—Matia Kostakis. One of our Young Adults, Matia has immersed herself in the community, and is coordinating activities for our youth. Read on.

Sunday's GOYA gathering was a big success thanks to you all for bringing your kids on homework heavy Sunday evenings. I'd like to also thank the Kontonis family for hosting our first meeting of the year and to Fr. Stephen for coming out and joining us. I hope we can maintain this attendance every month.

Since December is a very busy time of year for everyone, we will do the December meeting off-site. **Sunday, December 11th at 3pm at the Union Sq. Ice Rink** (is this convenient given when dance practice ends?) for ice skating/pizza/hot chocolate/Christmas picture by the tree.

As part of the season of giving, I think it would be nice if we have the kids bring an unwrapped toy for Toys for Tots drive or set up a coin drive or bake sale during coffee hour on Dec. 4th or 11th for Make a Wish Foundation. Toys for Tots and Make a Wish Foundation have been charities my family and I have always been a part of and a really nice reminder of how many kids are not as fortunate as we are. Toys For Tots will have a drop off near union sq, so we can plan on that or we can try the coin drive/bake sale at church. It would be nice for the kids to decide, but we didn't get to that on Sunday. If you could ask your sons and daughters which they prefer, I can help set it up.

see next page for more photos



GOYA met at the Kontonis home in November. A record number of teens showed.



Hello my favorite greek parents! (Matia writes)



Getting into it.



Sure about that?



This is great!

Summer Camp

2017 Summer Camp Staff applications are now available. To be a summer camp staff applicant, one must be an Orthodox Christian, 19 years old or have completed your first year of college, and active in the life of the Church.

Applications will be available November 1, 2016 - January 20, 2017 at www.gosfyouth.org

Please help pass on the word to any phenomenal young adults at your parishes who you think would be great role models to your youth.

2017 SUMMER CAMP DATES

Mandatory Staff Orientation: July 3 – 8

Session I: July 9 – 15

Session II: July 16 – 22

Session III: July 23 – 2

Dance Group News

As we enter December, our directors very busy researching and compiling dance material for our groups, especially in view of FDF in February. Our dance program, meanwhile, has resumed practice for 3 months now. Our kids danced at this year's Food Festival 18 are now feverishly learning their songs and dances for the Folk Dance Festival, held over President's weekend. This year's FDF will take place in San Diego, CA. We are pleased to note that our groups have increased significantly this year. We take this opportunity to welcome parents and young people who are new to our program.

The Cathedral's award-winning dance program consists of experienced and dedicated directors, talented dancers, and supportive families and community. All groups are currently open to new dancers for a limited time. Our program encompasses everyone from four years old to young adult. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com for more information.

To Mellon: Pre-K-K (must be at least 4 years old in Fall 2016) Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

To Mellon 2: 1st-3rd grade in Fall 2016
Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, and Trina Misthos

Thisavri: 4th-6th grade in Fall 2016
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 7th-11th grade in Fall 2016
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Megalopolis: 18 and up
Directed by Michael and Nicole Garibaldi



Sunday School News

*"Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy."
~Saint Theophan the Recluse*

We continue to welcome new students to Sunday School and this is a great plus. Our Music Program has started and the children are enthusiastic and are showing quite the musicality as they learn the various hymns of our church.

November ended with our moving ahead to strengthen our program and prepare to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord. Please refer to the dates, below.

Sunday School Calendar for December:

December 4	Regular Classes – Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 11	Regular Classes – Christmas Program Rehearsal
December 18	Sunday School Christmas Program
December 25	Christmas Holiday – No Sunday School

Sunday School affirms the home as the center of our faith. Parents are the most important people in a child's life, and learning about our Orthodox faith starts in the home. Teaching children about God is a seven-day-a-week effort, not something that can be done just an hour on Sunday morning. We pledge to do our best to support you in your child's spiritual education but it is only with your active participation that we are able to share the importance and value of our Orthodox faith with your children.

"Please make every effort this year to get Sunday School and the children off to a good start by coming on time at 10:30 am."

'Like'
Annunciation
Cathedral Sunday
School!



Serving in the Altar

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 present school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers have taken on the responsibility of coordinating the groups during services each week. We hope to add several more to their ranks in the coming years!

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

Our altar schedule for November is as follows:

December 4	–	Group 2
December 11	–	Group 3
December 18	–	Group 4
December 25	–	All Groups
December 31	–	Group 1

Our altar groups are as follow:

Group 1- Stelios Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis, Justin Perez, Christian Kleinekorte (Dimitri 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, Alexander Kasolas, Matthew Nuris (Jonas Tesfai- Group Leader)

Don't see your name here? Would you like to join us? We would like you to. Report for altar duty any Sunday morning, prior to 10:30 a.m., and Nektarios will make the appropriate arrangements. Meanwhile, it is also imperative that you attend Sunday School.

Greek School News

Greek school meets every Saturday morning (excluding some Saturdays for holidays). If you are interested in enrolling your child to our program, please contact Anthi Janssens for more information including registration form and annual school calendar at anthigj@gmail.com or at 415-254-5458. We look forward to welcoming back returning and new families! "



SACRAMENTS

Baptisms

Nikolas Ilia, son of Dimitrios (Jimmy) Prountzos and Georgia Haras Prountzos, was baptized on October 29. His Sponsors are Katerina and Peter Cazanis.

Naomi, daughter of Efrem Fessahzion and Misgana Chaway, was baptized on November 13. Her Sponsor is Eden Tesfu.

Anna Dorothea Fotini (baptized Ioanna), daughter of Petros Athanasios Papageorge and Nicole Marie Balian Papageorge, was baptized on November 19. Her Sponsors are S. Christopher and Irene Kyriacou, Bob and Lea Lyberopoulos.

Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

down the law. And those who desired his death by law actually exercised great care not only for his life but also for his highly esteemed education by introducing the youth to all wisdom.

When you destroy everything which opposes your worth...then you will draw near to the goal. I mean by "goal" that for the sake of which everything is done, for example: The goal of agriculture is the

see next box

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

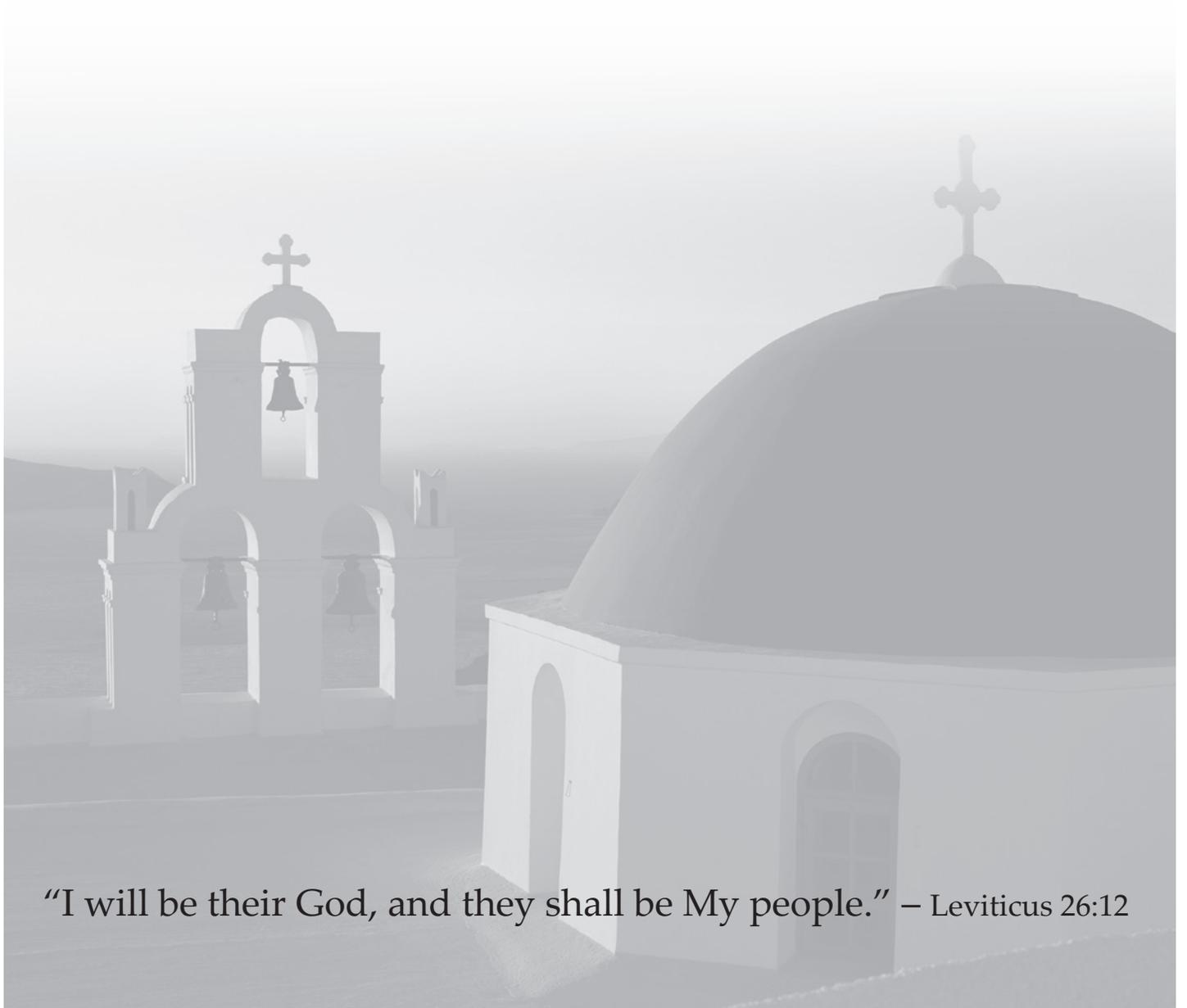
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3
				Church Basketball		Greek School, 10 a.m. Special Dance practice, 7 p.m.
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Orthros, 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am Dance Practice 12 noon Sunday School			7 p.m. Basketball practice	Church Basketball		Greek School, 10 a.m.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

enjoyment of its fruits; the goal of building a house is living in it; the goal of commerce is wealth; and the goal of striving in contests is the prize. In the same way, too, the goal of the sublime way of life is being called a servant of God. Along with this honor is contemplated an end which is not covered by a tomb; it refers to the life lived simply and free from evil appendages.

Scripture describes another characteristic of this service to God: the eye is not dimmed nor does the person age. For how can an eye which is always in the light be dimmed by the darkness from which it is always separated? And the person who by every means achieves incorruption in his whole life admits no corruption in himself. For he who has truly come to be in the image of God and who has in no way turned aside from the divine character bears in himself its distinguishing marks and shows in all things his conformity to the archetype; he beautifies his own soul with what is incorruptible, unchangeable, and shares in no evil at all.

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
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VASILOPITA & CHAMPAGNE BRUNCH

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 2017

FOLLOWING CHURCH SERVICES

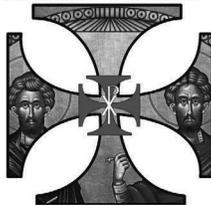
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FOR QUESTIONS OR TO RESERVE:

CALL THE CATHEDRAL AT 415-864-8000

OR EMAIL PAT ALECK P_ALECO@SBCGLOBAL.NET

PHILOPTOCHOS



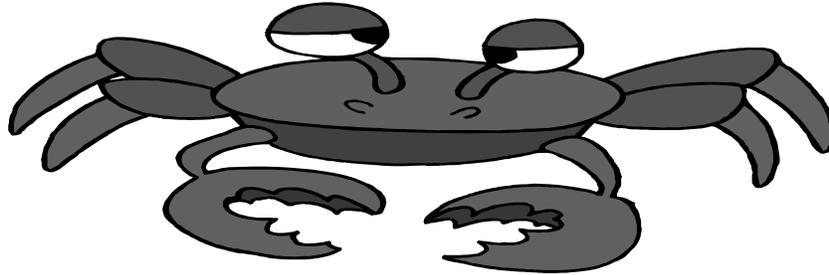
The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society
presents its:

35th Annual Crab Feed

Friday January 27, 2017

Cocktail Reception: 6:00 pm

Dinner: 7:30 pm



Scrumptious Fresh Dungeness Crab

\$60 per person

Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment

Attended Parking Available

344 14th Street, SF

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)

Total Amount Enclosed _____

For Reservations e mail Foula Vasilogiorgis: annunciation2017crabfeed@gmail.com

or

Call 415-378-7200

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos, Attn: Crab Feed
Please mail completed reservation form and check by January 15th, 2017 to:
Annunciation Cathedral: 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94103