Sunday, February 24, 2019

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

THE FIRST AND THE SECOND FINDING OF THE HEAD OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

KUDOS TO OUR DANCE GROUPS: Congratulations to our groups for their outstanding participation at this year’s FDF. Revmata, in the primary category, won the Costume Award and also took first place in the dancing competition! Thisaviiri, which competed in the advanced junior category, took Third Place. Spithes, in the intermediate category, won: 1. Choral 3rd place for Division 1 (among all the groups that competed in that division), 2. Costume Award 3rd Choral Award, and 4. and 2nd place in the dance competition. That’s probably an FDF record. It certainly is an Announcement record. Meanwhile, a Parish Council meeting, To Mellon, performed on Saturday in the non-competitive category. The awards will be presented in church, at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. Directors, we cannot thank you enough for mentoring your young people: Irene Kyriaciou, Lea Lyberopoulos, Katerina Misthos, Lea Papavissilou, Katerina Sarikakis, and Elef Taptelis.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: The Parish Council will meet today, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will take place in the Cathedral’s conference room.

BASKETBALL GAMES TODAY: Boys Middle School Annunciation and St. Gregory 2 will play today at 2:30 pm; Boys Elementary School Annunciation and Holy Cross will play today at 3:30 pm.

CHURCH BASKETBALL: Elementary and Middle School basketball practice will take place this week on Wednesday, February 27 and on Thursday, February 28, both at 7 p.m. Practice will take place in our Korinthias Gym. Meanwhile, High School basketball is practicing Thursdays at Jefferson High School Gymnasium, which is located at 6996 Mission Street, Daly City. Since most of the boys participating live on the Peninsula, the Daly City location is more easily accessible. For further information about the high school basketball program, please contact coaches Tom Nuris at (650) 520-6963 tnmuris@gmail.com or Nick Kontonis at (415) 706-1545 nickkontonis@gmail.com.

CONCERT TO BENEFIT THE BUILDING FUND: On Saturday, March 23, beginning at 4 p.m., a concert of sacred and also folk music will be held in our chapel. Directed by Tikey Zes, the concert will feature singers from throughout the Bay Area and will feature music by Theodore Bogdanos, Steve Cardiasmenos, Frank Desby and Tikey Zes. Champagne reception to follow. Additional information, please see Nick Tarlson, nick.tarlson.com. Tickets may also be obtained online: https://annunciationfundraiser.bpt.me.

PARKING: Golden State Parking, the valet company, parks our cars on Sunday mornings. For this service, we’ve been paying $5, essentially to cover the cost of the attendants. Meanwhile, we have signed a 6-month trial agreement with the valet company so that, as soon as it obtains the necessary permits, it can operate the parking weekdays, as well. We anticipate this service will begin soon.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP: Please make your Stewardship support for 2019 a priority. We thank you for your continued support. As members of the Annunciation Cathedral family, your participation is important. Your support makes possible the very existence of this parish, and its ability to offer Liturgical services, educational, & philanthropic programs. We will thank all 2019 Stewards in the March Herald.

100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE BOOK: Jim Loukas, who heads the Greek Historical Society of the SF Bay Area, is heading this project. Jim was on hand two Sundays ago to answer your questions about the inclusion of your family in this keepsake publication. He will be around from time to time, for this purpose. Meanwhile, please refer to your Herald for periodic updates. Jim may be contacted at: jim loukas.com.
WINDING DOWN: As you can see, we’re winding down Phase 1 of construction. We have a little way to go, however, in order to complete the fountain, the gates along Valencia Street, the exterior doors, etc. This takes time, especially in this challenging building climate and, of course, money. In order to complete these tasks and begin working on Phase 2 (the interior), we will need to embark upon a renewed Capital Campaign. Let’s stay positive and focused.

Consider what you have accomplished so far. As with Moses, we hear God speaking to us: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν. Exodus 25:8). Building also takes vision, determination and faith. You are doing something extraordinary: you are building His sanctuary, a sacred space, right the heart of one of the world’s premier cities. Here, the Orthodox Christian faith is poised to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation to a whole new generation of worshipers!

“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.”