INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY CLASSES: These very popular classes are taking place on a weekly basis, remotely, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Alex Kozak. If you are new to the parish or you are considering being received into the Church through baptism and/or chrismation, as an adult, we invite you to speak with Alex about your wishes and the possibility of joining the Introduction to Orthodoxy class. Please contact him at orthodoxy-agkozak@me.com.

ETERNAL MEMORY: As this bulletin went to press, we learned of the sudden falling asleep in the Lord of Effie Aronoff. Αἰωνίως η μνήμη. Eternal memory!

LIGHT A VIRTUAL CANDLE: Thank you for lighting a virtual candle every Sunday, thus keeping hope alive. Whether you donate $1 or $1,000, your gift is one of faith. It helps keeps the Cathedral solvent during this universal upheaval. More importantly, it connects us to Him who is the Light of the World (John 8:12) and reminds us of our calling to be the light of the world (Matthew 5:14). Keep on lighting your virtual candles! To do so, please visit our web site, www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter https://www.annunciation.org/candle

GREEK SCHOOL, SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES CONTINUE, REMOTELY: Both schools report record attendance, in spite of the limitations that COVID-19 has placed upon us. Kudos to all. Do avail yourselves of the opportunity to be a part of our cultural and catechetical programs. Remain connected with our faith and our heritage and, above all, fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith (Letter to the Hebrews, 12:2).

COMMENORATIVE BOOK: Thank you all for participating in this year’s AdBook. Entitled Physically Distant; Spiritually Connected, the book is being printed in this, our 99th year as a community. A directory of the parishioners and friends of the Cathedral is also being compiled; it will be mailed separately. Your support has made these efforts a success!

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: While we had announced a November 1 date for the resumption of in-person worship our Reopening Task Force and, subsequently, our Parish Council, voted not to do so just yet. Both were guided by the most recent City guidelines, which impose a number of restrictions upon in-person worship. This said, our goal is to open as soon as it is safe to do so. Meanwhile, we invite you to continue to participate in the Sunday services and special weekday services, remotely, through streaming.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR CHURCH REOPENING: As we resume in-person worship, we will need to have about seven (7) volunteers on hand each time the church is open, to monitor the parking garage, greet and check in, ask health questions, usher, and provide general oversight. We also have an opening for offering to serve as volunteers, in addition to the members of our Parish Council. If you would like to join them, please visit https://www.annunciation.org/reopening-volunteer

OUR ADOPT A PAVER PROJECT: The good news is that we’re at 100 pavers. Of these, 44 have been inscribed. They will be redone, in a darker color, to make them easier to read, at the same time that the remaining 56 pavers are inscribed. More good news is that the company’s inscription will resume work, beginning November 9.

PHILOPTOCHOS FUND RAISER: PHILOPTOCHOS “VIRAL VENDOR WEEK”: Browse the Taste and Art of Greece web site, where you will find authentic and unique products from artists and designers from every corner of Greece. Taste and Art of Greece will donate 35% of the proceeds from all purchases made during the week of October 26 – November 2, 2020 to the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptochos. Tell your family and friends, near and far, to shop to support our charities, and local artists and designers in Greece. https://www.tasteandartofgreece.com

FOCUS ON YOUTH: Yesterday, Saturday Oct 24th, our To Mellon and Remata kids enjoyed a Zoom call together along with Father Stephen and Christo. A similar reunion with our high schoolers is being planned, as well as one with our young adults. Though we cannot gather at church, it is always great to “see” one another and stay connected virtually.
THINGS BEGINNING TO MOVE: The present pandemic has put everything building-related on hold but, now, things are moving. Granite along the Valencia Street walls and the stone cap have been installed. The roofing and drainage issues have been addressed. The gates are now virtually complete. The lobby doors have been installed. Stonecraft has installed the remaining pavers. We are only waiting for the final inspection of the elevator. As soon as this is done, we will obtain our certificate of occupancy for the garage, so we can open the garage to self-park. This is necessary if we are to open up the church, as the valet can guide us where to park, but can no longer park our cars for us.

As a community, we’ve been through much, especially when we lost everything to the earthquake back in 1989. But, we’ve bounced back. It wasn’t easy, but we did it, because we have faith, we have hope, and we have unity. So, too, we will weather this pandemic and return to a so called “new normal,” – i.e. a community where we may do things a little differently, but with the same strong faith in God. After all, it is for Him, in Him, and through Him that we continue to exist at all. Praise God for the Gift of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we are given the faith and the vision to rebuild His Church.

“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.”