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 https://agkozak.com/intro.

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verses 17-21: Brethren, obey your leaders and submit to them; for they are keeping watch over your souls, as men who will have to give account. Let them do this joyfully, and not sadly, for that would be of no advantage to you. Pray for us, for we are sure that we have a clear conscience, desiring to act honorably in all things. I urge you the more earnestly to do this in order that I may be restored to you the sooner. Now may the God of peace who

THE LORD’S PRAYER IN SPANISH:

Que estás en los cielos, que santificado sea tu nombre, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras ofensas como nosotros perdonamos a los demás, y no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y libranos del Mal.

COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD: Thank you for your enthusiastic response to our Annunciation Christmas card appeal! The donation is $25 per line. To pay on line, visit our web site: https://www.annunciation.org/donate/2020ChristmasCard. You may also send a check, payable to Annunciation Cathedral, and mail it to 245 Valencia Street, San Francisco, CA 94103-2320. For changes or questions, please contact Annamaree Balian (Balianna@aol.com) or Kalliopie Fousekis (KalliopieF@aol.com), or call Kalliopi at 650 591-5409. Help us get the word out to your family and friends in the community, so that everyone may be included. In order to be included in the card, we must receive your payment by December 10. We wish you and your family members health and happiness during this holy season.

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). To light your virtual candles, please visit our web site, https://www.annunciation.org, and click on the appropriate link, or enter https://annunciation.org/candle.

REOPENING OF OUR CHURCH FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP: As San Francisco is currently in the purple tier, churches are closed to in-person worship. It is still our goal 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. Thank God for our Technology team, who are making this possible.

OUR ADOPT A PAVER PROJECT: The good news is all 100 pavers that have been “adopted” have been inscribed. The “walkway of honor” is quite a site, creating a special place in our courtyard.

TODAY’S MNEMOSYNON: Memorial prayers are being offered for the repose of the soul of our sister Georgia Lampros Dalikas, who fell asleep in the Lord 5 years ago. Αινίας ετεράν! Eternal memory!

2021 STEWARDSHIP DRIVE UNDERWAY: Stewardship is all about giving back to God that which God has given us. In this way, we become Stewards of God’s grace, as we read in 1 Peter 4:10: Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others as faithful Stewards of God’s grace in its various forms. Thanks to your faith, the Cathedral has been able to meet its budgetary expenses for 2020. We now invite your support for 2021. Stewardship cards have been sent out to our Cathedral community. Please complete and return your card by December 31*. A couple of new features this year. One is a check box asking you to identify your primary affiliation with the parish. This will help us better understand the various groups that make up the community. Another is a checkbox asking whether you would like to continue your 2021 pledge into 2022. A 2021 stewardship pledge card can be downloaded at https://annunciation.org/pledge-card.

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VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT FOR CHURCH REOPENING: We thank Eleni Carter and Rada Nashawati (Paximadis) for offering to serve as volunteers, in addition to the members of our Parish Council. If you would like to join them, please click on https://www.annunciation.org/reopening-volunteer.

CORRECTION: Please refer to the November-December Herald, d Philoptochos Section. The correct phone number to call Foula Vassilogloris to order a Christmas ornament is: 415 378-7200. You may also email her at Philoptochoschonnem@charter.net. Thank you for your support of the philanthropic efforts of Philoptochos.
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. Stonescraft has put in 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. Opening the garage 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 extoll and all of creation sanctified.”