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. Alex will extend an invite to the meetings, currently taking place via Zoom.

RETURNING TO FULL WORSHIP: Following the guidance by State and local health officers and our Metropolis, in light of the June 15, 2021 lifting of restrictions by the State of California, occupancy limits for in-person worship have been suspended. Reservations for in-person worship, therefore, are no longer required. However, mask wearing indoors continues to be required, both for those who are vaccinated and those who are not vaccinated. While 80% of eligible San Franciscans have been vaccinated, there are some who have not been vaccinated. We care for the health and well-being of all our parishioners. Sunday coffee hour will resume as soon as it is safe to do so. In September, we hope to open Sunday School and Greek School to in-person learning, and to reopen other programs and activities. Toward this end, we are reviewing the guidance from the State and City health departments. Announcements concerning these will be made in the near future. We welcome you, as we return to full worship and plan to reopen other-pre-pandemic programs and activities.

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: The last 16 months have been, as we know, challenging. Thankfully, we are recovering and are engaged in the rebuilding of our parish life and its many ministries. It is of vital importance that you continue to pledge and fulfill your support, through stewardship and, now that more and more people are being vaccinated, by in-person worship. In spite of the pandemic, 2021 was a banner year for us: we ended the year with 325 stewards (which includes 7 new families)! This year, however, we are reporting only 259 stewards, as of June 15, 2021. We know that some of you are waiting until later in the year to declare your support. We would encourage you to do so sooner rather than later.

GREEK SCHOOL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL: All of our teachers and students are to be commended for overcoming the difficulties of this past year by holding classes virtually. Our Sunday School will resume in the fall (again, hopefully, for in-person instruction) on Sunday, September 12. Our Reopening Taskforce is considering mandating that all children who participate in church programs must be vaccinated, as vaccines are available to them.

FESTIVAL THIS YEAR? Our Festival Committee is hard at work to determine whether we can hold this year's Anunciation Bay Cruise, with a possible visit to Alcatraz, for our parish youth, the last Saturday in September (September 25). If you are interested in helping chaperone, please e mail Christo at Christo@annunciation.org.

We would encourage you to do so sooner rather than later.
CONSTRUCTION BIDS EXPECTED. We are expecting bids from 5 contractors who were invited to bid on our project (completion of the interior of the new Cathedral). Immediately thereafter, our Building Committee will interview and select one of them. Meanwhile, construction manager, Joel is helping us transition from contractors who built the exterior and bring to a conclusion some pending matters, as the garage. Our Capital Campaign Committee has resumed its task of raising the funds to complete the project, currently estimated to be $4 million. The Cathedral already has on hand the $1.5 million bequest by the late Sam George as well as money from the paver project… 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.”