EPISODE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Apostolic Reading is from St. Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews, 11 Verses 9-10, 32-40. It is found in our books on pages 150-151.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 1, Verses 1-25. It is found in our books on pages 311-317.

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICES: Tomorrow is the Great Feast of the Nativity of our Lord God and Savior Jesus Christ. It is, above all, a sacred holy day. Divine services will be held at the Cathedral, beginning with Orthros at 9 a.m. and followed by the Divine Liturgy at 10:15 a.m. The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great will be celebrated by His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco. At the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy, we will sing traditional Christmas carols. We look forward to welcoming you.

VASILOPITA: BRUNCH ON JANUARY 7: Bring your family and friends and join us as we celebrate with our Annunciation family at our 2018 Vasilopita Brunch. The lunch, sponsored by the Annunciation Cathedral Philothenos, will take place on Sunday, January 7, following the Divine Liturgy. The donation of $20 per person ($10 for children), will benefit St. Basil’s Academy. Members of the Ladies Philothenos are available following the Divine Liturgy, today and tomorrow, to take your reservations. Reserving helps us plan accordingly. Thank you.

STEWARDSHIP YOU: Three Sundays ago, the Cathedral officially launched its 2018 Stewardship Campaign. We’ve had a great response so far: we’ve received back some 150 completed cards, either through the mail or, as was the case on December 3, through the church collection at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy. We cannot stress how important it is for everyone, age 18 and above, who considers the Cathedral to be your home parish, to support its ministries through Stewardship. For, we are a family, and a family needs all its members doing their part, in order for it to be a happy, functioning family. In an effort to properly acknowledge and thank you for your support, we will list the names of all Stewards in our February Herald. In case you’ve misplaced your card or if you wish additional cards for family members, these, as well as information about our Stewardship program, may be found at the pangari. They are in an envelope marked “Stewardship.” We also invite you to direct any questions you may have concerning our Stewardship program, to Father Stephen or a member of the Parish Council Stewardship Team. Let’s make 2018 a banner year for Stewardship for the Cathedral. Together, we can do it!

DANCE PRACTICE SATURDAY: Dance practice will take place this Saturday, December 30, at 10 a.m.

YOUNG ADULT DANCE PRACTICE: Young Adult dance practice will not take place this week because of the Christmas holiday. It will resume Tuesday, January 2.

NO BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Basketball practice will not take place this week, because of the Christmas holiday.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 7: Sunday School will not meet today, nor will it meet next Sunday, December 31, because of the Christmas holiday, but will resume on Sunday, January 7.

GREEK SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 6: Greek School classes will not take place this Saturday, because of the Christmas break. Classes will resume Saturday, January 6 and will go through 1 pm, both on January 6 and also January 13.
CLOSER AND CLOSER: We’re in the home stretch. As you can see, we are nearing completion of the exterior. We are waiting for our conditional use permit, which will enable us to secure a third-party operator to run the parking. Tentatively, we’ve been given February 1, 2018 for utilization of our parking. As for the interior, we hope to locate a contractor by the end of 2017 for the upper interior wall installation. However, in order for us to continue, we need your prayers and your continued financial support. First, we have outstanding pledges, to the tune of $550,000. May we ask you to make good on your Building Fund pledges by the end of 2017? This will enable us to continue rebuilding; if you have not yet contributed, won’t you consider making your gift this calendar year, before December 31, as your gift is fully tax deductible, to the extent allowed by law? More importantly, you will experience the joy of giving (and to such a historic undertaking!), helping make firm our presence as a Greek Orthodox house of worship in the heart of our Great City. In this way, we will be answering the call by God to Moses, when he said “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις µοι ἁγίασµα, καὶ ὀφθήσοµαι ἐν ὑµῖν (Exodus 25:8)). When everything is completed, we will be able to consecrate the new Cathedral to the glory of God. More than likely, this will take place to coincide with our 100th anniversary, in 2021. We’re in the home stretch, Annunciation! “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.”

(Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, Ground breaking, November 6, 1997)