Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month (rather than every Sunday). If you are interested, please contact Al exandros Kozák at orthodoxy-agkokaz@msn.com. Note: The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month (rather than every Sunday). The schedule for this month and next is January 7, 14, February 4, 11.

VASILOPITA AND VASILOPITA BRUNCH TODAY: We hope you are planning to join us as we celebrate with our Annunciation family at our 2018 Vasilopita Brunch. The lunch, sponsored by the Annunciation Cathedral Philoptchos, is taking place following this morning’s Divine Liturgy. The donation of $20 per person ($10 for children), will benefit St. Basil’s Academy. Members of the Ladies Philoptchos have been hard at work preparing the Vasilopita breads for your enjoyment. Let’s support the efforts of Philoptchos, as they lead the way in ministering to the poor and so many other philanthropic endeavors.

TODAY IS KNOWN AS “SYNAXIS” OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST: As yesterday was the great feast of Theophany, or Epiphany—the day when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River—today honors the memory of the one who baptized Christ. It is called a “synaxis.” A synaxis is an assembly for liturgical purposes, like Vespers, or like the Divine Liturgy. The practice developed in Constantinople, where the clergy and faithful would gather together on a specific feast day at a church dedicated to the saint of that day. So, in Constantinople, all clergy and faithful would gather at a church dedicated to St. John the Baptist. A synaxis occurs on the day following a major feast day, such as today, since yesterday was Theophany (or Epiphany).

STEWARDSHIP AND YOU: On December 3rd, the Cathedral officially launched its 2018 Stewardship Campaign. 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 pangaí. 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 TODAY: Dance practice today will begin at 3 p.m., following the Vasilopita Brunch.

FOLK DANCE AND CHORAL FESTIVAL, OR FDF: FDF normally takes place in February, during President’s Day weekend. This year, however, it is taking place one month earlier. It begins this Thursday, January 11, with opening ceremonies and concludes on Sunday, January 14, with a grand banquet. Furthermore, it is taking place in San Francisco, at the San Francisco Marriott Marquis. We invite you to check with FDF, www.yourdfd.org, for a schedule of events and pricing.

YOUNG ADULT DANCE PRACTICE: Young Adult dance practice will not take place this Tuesday, January 9, beginning at 7 p.m.

NO BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: There is no basketball practice this week, due to FDF.
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."