Today’s Memorial Services are being offered for the repose of the soul of our sister Angela Vavuris, who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago.

WELCOME, YOUR EMINENCE. WELCOME PAUL GIKAS.
We welcome His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos of San Francisco, who is worshipping with us this morning. We also welcome Paul Gikas, a 2000 graduate of our Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology and Director of our Metropolis Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministries. Paul is our homilist this morning.

COFFEE HOUR/LUNCHEON TODAY
Today’s Coffee Hour/Luncheon is being offered by Emily Bagatelo, in memory of Angie Vavuris, and also in memory of Father Theophilos P. Theophilos and of Mary Bonatsis, both of whom fell asleep in the Lord two years ago.

DIVINE LITURGY ON THE FEAST OF SAINT NICHOLAS
Friday, December 6 is the Feast of St. Nicholas, Archbishop of Myra, the Wonderworker. As has been our custom for a number of years now, we concelebrate the feast with our brothers and sisters of the Antiochian Orthodox Church of Saint Nicholas, located at 5200 Diamond Heights Boulevard, San Francisco. The Divine Liturgy, which will begin at 11:00 a.m., preceded by Orthros at 10:30 a.m., will be followed by a luncheon. All are cordially invited to attend.

OUR CHILDREN ARE TALKING
One of the most wonderful things that has happened as a result of the start of construction is that our children are expressing their feelings about building our new church, in pictures and in words. We recall the first time, about eight weeks ago, when our young people came up at the end of the Divine Liturgy and shared their “amazement,” their “joy” and their “sense of blessing,” to use their words, that we are building a church to God’s glory. About a month ago, one of these children addressed himself to His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos, who celebrated the Divine Liturgy on the occasion of the departure of His Excellency Ambassador Ioannis Andreades from San Francisco. Last Sunday, children from our pre-school and kindergarten came down the aisle singing, yes we can build Annunciation, as they waved banners and an icon of the Annunciation, which they had colored. We have been sharing the children’s compositions with you, by means of the Herald, as well as by means of the monthly Building Update. Our children our scheduled to speak next on December 22.

LIGHT THE PATH CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON THIS SATURDAY.
The Light the Path Christmas Luncheon, in support of the Bishop Anthony Philoptochos Student Aid Endowment Fund, will take place this coming Saturday, December 7, 2013 at the Nativity Church of Christ in Novato, CA. Limited seating is available. If you have not yet made your reservation, please call 415 431-2600 or e mail, office@sfphiloptochos.org, sponsored by the Metropolis.

ANNUAL FOOD DRIVE BEGINS TODAY
Please help us fill our food bins by donating cans or dry foods to benefit those in need. Thank you for your generosity.

2013 CHRISTMAS CARD
Annamarie Balian Annette Chiappari. Kalliope Fousekis, and Mary Tonas will be on hand following today’s Divine Liturgy to greet you and to take your name(s) for this year’s community Christmas card. The donation is $25 per entry.

OYAA BASKETBALL PRACTICE FOR GIRLS AND BOYS 8-14 YEARS OLD HAS BEGUN
If you are interested in joining a team (and we hope you all do) please take with you the appropriate materials at the pangari, or speak with our basketball coaches, Tom Nuris, Chris Kallas, or Demo Konstantinidis.
GOOD NEWS: CONSTRUCTION OF THE CATHEDRAL HAS BEGUN: Look outside and see what’s going on. Our buildings and the sidewalks on Valencia and Stevenson Streets have been shored up, and Excavation has begun for the underground garage. It will take a number of months to put down the rebar steel, install the drainage and lay down the floor slab, which will serve as the ground level of the parking structure, as well as the ground level slab, over which the Cathedral will be built. Every week you will see more and more progress.

In the Book of Exodus (25:8) God says: “Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (Translated from the Septuagint: Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν.) We’ve quoted this at least since the start of the Capital Campaign. And we can’t stress it enough: we’re building the Cathedral because God is telling us to!

GOOD NEWS: OVER $4.5 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED DURING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: The total on hand is $7 million (additional monies from the Mountainos Estate, prior to the start of the Campaign). We also have $1.1 million in receivables (from parishioners who are paying over a number of years, in some cases, up to five years. We need $10.7 to finish this phase, which includes the complete exterior. We will then need about $2 million to finish the interior, complete with pews and iconography.

We hope you are among those who have already given to the Campaign. If not, we invite you to make your gift. Please consider what you can give over five years. You may well be surprised that, giving what it costs to get a cup of coffee at Starbucks, over five years amounts to over $5,000! Some people can give more. We note that a few people who’ve already made their gift are now considering increasing it to a six-figure gift, so as to join the “Dean’s List,” a benefit of which will be naming opportunities. Please know that, whether large or small, your gift is equally welcome. Eventually, a donor wall will be placed in the Narthex of the new Cathedral ($1,000 minimum). Will your name be on it?

We at the Annunciation Cathedral will grow The Orthodox Christian Faith in San Francisco through: Stewardship, Worship, Education, Evangelism and Philanthropic Outreach