SUNDAY AFTER THEOPHANY

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Epistle Reading is from Saint Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 4, verses 7-13. It is found in our books on p. 155.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning’s Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 4, verses 12-17. It is found in our books on pp. 323.

PARISH VASILlopita AND Brunch The Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos invites you to celebrate the New Year by participating in the Vasilopita and Brunch, today, following the Divine Liturgy. A major portion of the proceeds goes to support St. Basil’s Academy, in Garrison, New York.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTS OFFICERS FOR 2014 Following last Sunday’s administration of the oath of office to the newly elected members, the Parish Council convened and elected officers for 2014. The officers are: Dean Nicolacakis, President; Thomas A. Nurius, Vice-President; Gus Vouchelas, Secretary; Philippoi Athanasiades, Treasurer; and Nicholas J. Rally, Assistant Treasurer.

CRETAN GLENDI THIS SATURDAY The event—always a sell-out—will benefit the Cathedral’s Dance Group Program. For reservations, please call John Monolakis, at 415 244-4534 or delphi2881@sbcglobal.net

SERVICES THIS WEEK Friday, January 17 is the Feast of St. Anthony the Great and Saturday, January 18 is the Feast of Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria. The Divine Liturgy will be celebrated both days, beginning at 10 a.m. At noon the Archons sorothe the aige Theofania ton Khourion hena apo Xristofo. H Theia Lεitουργία θα τελεσθεί στις 10:30 π.μ., αφότου πραξείται ο Όρθρος, στις 9 π.μ., και στη συνέχεια ο Μεγάλος Αγιασμός, στις 10 π.μ. Την Τετάρτη, Σύντομα του Προφήτου, η Θεία Λειτουργία θα τελεσθεί στις 10 π.μ.

CRAB FEED JANUARY 31 On Friday, January 31 the Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos will hold its Crab Feed, one of this year’s premier events. Reception at 6 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. The donation is $55. per person. For reservations, please call the Cathedral, 415 864-8000.

BUILDING, BUILDING, AND MORE BUILDING Sunday after Sunday people peer through the holes in the plywood, along the gallery, on their way to the chapel, and watch the progress being made. They see digging, placement of pipes all over, and moving of earth. For the last several weeks, the construction company has been stabilizing the soil, so that the ground on which the building lies will be as strong and stable as possible. This is a painstaking process, as is the excavation of some 12,500 tons of soil and the delivering of that soil to various dump sites. Some of the soil, which was found to have lead, was even taken from the site that was put in there from the 1906 earthquake, was even taken out of state (an expensive, but necessary way of disposing of this soil). After the soil stabilization and, once the excavation is complete, the parking garage and foundation walls and mat slab will be laid, with lots of reinforcing steel. Then, in the spring, when all this is done, and the plumbing and electrical is in place, we will be able to see some above ground construction. Keep peering and take lots of pictures, for this is a wonderful thing to watch—the development of the new Cathedral and the parking component below.

Meanwhile, all this costs money. And our people are responding, for example, since construction began on October 17, over $500,000.00 has been received in the form of gifts and pledges. This is very encouraging, as we canvass the community, inviting your gifts and pledges. The last couple of weeks we’ve been inviting you to consider giving appreciated assets. That’s stocks or other securities you may have acquired years ago, but now are worth a lot more. If you donate these appreciated assets, you are actually giving more (since the assets originally cost you less) and you can derive a benefit in the form of a tax deduction.

Suppose you bought a stock for $10,000 in 2011. Suppose now it is worth $13,000. If you give the stock to the church, you get an income tax deduction of $13,000 (not of $10,000 that I actually paid for it, if you are in the 40% bracket). The church then sells the stock for $13,000 but does not pay taxes (because it is tax-exempt). Besides the tax advantages, you have the satisfaction of making a more substantial gift. Πάντα τά πάντα, as we say. Of course, please do not let what we said here sway you, one way or the other. Check with your accountant or financial officer for advice before deciding to make a gift of stock or other securities. Even though we are in calendar year 2014, speak with your financial advisor, as you may still be able to take advantage of a significant tax deduction for calendar year 2013.
BUILDING UPDATE ON ITS WAY TO YOUR HOMES:

A building update, featuring our children on the cover, and a narrative of our building project on the inside, was sent to the Cathedral’s parishioners and friends, in an effort to keep you informed about our progress. (Another update is about to go out this week.) The great news is that construction has begun! We started construction 24 years (to the day) of Loma Prieta, the earthquake which claimed the old Cathedral. We’re building, because God has asked us to!

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 has asked us to. In His infinite wisdom, the Lord knows what he has in store for us and for the future of our Faith, in this dynamic corridor of San Francisco’s inner city.

MORE GOOD NEWS: OVER $4.9 MILLION HAS BEEN RAISED DURING THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN:

The total raised during the Capital Campaign exceeds $5.1 million (Over $500,000 of this was raised since we began construction on October 17.) Of the $5.1 raised, $3.8 has been received; $1.3 million is receivable (from parishioners who are paying over a number of years, in some cases, up to five years.) The total cost for completion, inside and out, is just over $12 million. However, the contract we signed with McNely Construction is a not-to-exceed $10.7 million. This gets us the parking structure and a complete exterior. We are confident we will complete the interior, as well, iconography, pews and all. We have faith that we will get there and that the new Cathedral will be consecrated to the glory of God. You will see it. You will be a part of it…through your prayers, your faith, and your giving. Be excited…it’s happening!

We at the Annunciation Cathedral will grow

The Orthodox Christian Faith in San Francisco through:
Stewardship, Worship, Education, Evangelism and Philanthropic Outreach