CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES
GOING STRONG IN 2014

Ground was broken on October 28th, and construction is moving forward at a good pace. The site demolition (trimming back the covered outdoor walkway, demolishing the courtyard and parking lot), and installing the shoring for the excavation needed to build the underground parking garage have all been largely completed. The soil under the new parking garage is being compacted to prevent liquefaction in an earthquake, and provide a sound foundation for the new Cathedral. The soil compaction should be completed by late January, and then the main excavation can begin. Most of the excavated soil can be sent for recycling, but some will need to be disposed of separately due to the presence of lead-contaminated debris that was placed on the site after the 1906 earthquake and fire. The construction team continues to work together effectively to continue value engineering as construction proceeds. The Capital Campaign Committee continues to reach out to the parish at large to discuss opportunities to contribute to this tangible part of our community’s future. To date, $7,610,000.00 has been received or pledged for the construction.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS HELD ON DECEMBER 15

The following are the election results, in descending order: James D. Vorriese, 62 votes; Thomas A. Nuris, 61 votes; Gus Vouchilas, 60 votes; George D. Vlahos, 55 votes; Deno C. Konstantinidis, 52 votes; Angie Leventis, 52 votes; Philippos Athanasiades, 51 votes; and Nicholas Svetcoff, 51 votes. The other seven members of the Parish Council, whose terms expire on December 1, 2014, are, in alphabetical order: Patricia Aleck, George Ambadiotakis Ambus, S. Christopher Kyriacou, Dean Nicolacakis, Nicholas J. Rally, Nikolas M. Stratopoulos, and Constantine Tsagaris. The Parish Council will convene on January 5, following the administration of the oath of office to the newly elected members, to elect officers for 2014. The Cathedral thanks Anthony Ambus, Annette Chiappari, and Basil Tonas, who served as Board of Elections.

“I consecrated this house you built to place My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there all days.”

– 3 Kingdoms 9:3

If you have not yet pledged to the building project and have been considering making a pledge or donation, please contact Father Stephen or Father Niko at (415) 864-8000.
**Born of the Spirit**  
*by Marcelo P. Souza*

*We are born again and we are born from above as God gives us the Spirit through the new birth in the waters of regeneration and resurrection.*

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. (Romans 6:4-5).

As baptism unites us to Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection, as Paul teaches us, so we are raised to a new life in the Spirit through the means of grace. Baptism is a promise and a means; it is the entrance into the kingdom and the engrafting into the body of Christ by our mystical union with him.

The first Adam was created to till and cultivate the garden of God, until the time when, after obediently carrying out God’s purposes, he would have been glorified forever; he failed, and we inherit the consequences of that failure, but in Christ, the second Adam, the Man from above who is already glorified and who dispenses to us the Spirit without measure, we are re-created in his image so we can live in the new garden, the New Heavens and the New Earth, where the living waters are freely given.

**MATCHING GIFTS FOR THE BUILDING PROJECT**

A few months ago, one of our dedicated parishioners informed us that the company she works for offered to match any contributions made by any of their employees to non-profit organizations. The individual had already pledged $25,000 over five years to the building project, and had already submitted one payment in the amount of $5,000. This year. Recently, we were notified that the company would be sending a check for the same amount. This means that, potentially, this individual's pledge will go from $25,000 to $50,000!

If you have already pledged to the Capital Campaign and submitted a payment this year, or are planning to do so in the future, please inquire if your employer has a similar policy of matching gifts to non-profits. Please join us as we embark on this historic time in the history of our community. Every bit helps!

If you have not yet pledged to the building project and have been considering making a pledge or donation, please contact Father Stephen or Father Niko at (415) 864-8000.

**WHAT DOES MY GIFT TO THE BUILDING FUND REALLY AMOUNT TO OVER A FIVE YEAR PERIOD?**

Below are some different ways to look at how you can make a meaningful gift.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMOUNT</th>
<th>PER YEAR OVER 5 YEARS</th>
<th>PER MONTH OVER 5 YEARS</th>
<th>PER DAY OVER 5 YEARS</th>
<th>2 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)</th>
<th>3 PERSON FAMILY- PER DAY (EACH)</th>
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We are born again and from above so that we become like newborn babes, for, as Christ tells us, “Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” As newborn babes, we are children who need to be nourished by their mother. When we are born of the flesh, we are nourished in the bosom of our mothers, and when we are born of the Spirit we are nourished by heavenly Mother, the Church, through the washing of the Word and the grace of the Sacraments.

The same Spirit who blew life into the earthly man Adam, and who brought to life a valley of dead bones in Ezekiel, also gives us life as He unites us to Christ through baptism and begins to deify us. This is nothing less than a recreation, a refashioning and restoration of human beings into the image of the true man Jesus Christ. We are born again unto newness of life, a newness that begins even here in this life. St. Athanasius, in his book *On the Incarnation*, puts it this way:

>You know what happens when a portrait that has been painted on a panel becomes obliterated through external stains. The artist does not throw away the panel but the subject of the portrait has to come and sit for it again, and then the likeness is re-drawn on the same material. Even so it was with the All-holy Son of God. He, the Image of the Father, came and dwelt in our midst, in order that He might renew mankind make after Himself, and seek out His lost sheep, even as He says in the Gospel: “I came to seek and to save that which was lost.” This also explains His saying to the Jews, “Except a man be born again [he cannot see the kingdom of God].” He was not referring to man’s natural birth from his mother, as thought, but to the rebirth and recreation of the soul in the image of God.

Through repentance, faith, and baptism we have received the washing of regeneration and we have been born of the water and of the Spirit. We have been born again and born from above. The flesh is subject to death, but the Spirit is incorruptible, so that the new life we have received through God’s promises and work in the Spirit is a life that is everlasting, incorruptible, sustained by the last Adam who has defeated sin, death, and the devil.

Baptism is not only the cleansing washing of regeneration according to the promises of God, but also a public statement that we have been transferred from this world to the womb of the Church, to the kingdom of God. Even Nicodemus, the respected Pharisee and teacher of Israel, would have to publicly undergo baptism and live in newness of life even if that meant shame and scorn from those who would refuse to unite themselves to Jesus, his cross, and his resurrection.

Nicodemus came at night and he was not sure how to think of Jesus. Only through the new life given by the Spirit could he pass from death to life, from darkness to light, and from seeing things from a fleshly perspective - Jesus as an interesting miracle worker and rabbi - to seeing things in the heavenly perspective, i.e., Jesus Christ, God incarnate, the Man from heaven who unites us to himself through the Spirit and gives us eternal life.

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**Consider joining a 2014 OCMC Orthodox Mission Team**

Consider joining an OCMC Orthodox Mission Team in 2014. Mission Teams serve our Holy Orthodox Church’s unending mission effort that all people may come to know the saving love of our Lord. Be a living witness on a Healthcare team to Tanzania or Uganda, work with youth in Albania or Moldova, or offer your talents on other OCMC Teams in 2014. Team applications and details are available online at www.ocmc.org or call the OCMC at 1.877.463.6787 (ext 142) for more information.

**PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS**

Happy New Year and Greetings to our Annunciation family from Philoptochos! We hope the season brought you joyful moments and warm memories. What an exciting time in the life of our community as we watch the construction taking place. May this year be a banner year of growth for our Cathedral and a year of health and prosperity for all!

The Philoptochos end of year events were very successful and we thank all who supported our endeavors. Our annual Thanksgiving Luncheon held in conjunction with the Stewardship committee on November 28 was enjoyed by close to 200 attendees. Our committee prepared a most delicious luncheon with all the trimmings. I can’t thank the kitchen crew enough for their delicious preparation of all the food. Popi Zakis, Bonnie Grampas, Mike Canellos, Antonio Perez, John Panomitrios, Vickie Moulas, Terpsi Varanis, Tom Moulas were the principal chefs joined by Yvonne and John Stamatakis. In addition, thanks to those who helped serve. A special thanks to Angelo Koutoulas from Chick N Coop who roasted all eight of our turkeys. It was truly a feast to behold.

Those of us who attended the Metropolis Philoptochos Light the Path Luncheon in Novato on December 7 enjoyed the warmth and camaraderie of the
Continued from page 3

day immensely. It was a lovely day in a room filled with Christmas décor and the twenty or more gorgeously decorated trees surrounding the room sparkled and gleamed calling us to enter the raffle to win one. It was exciting to see that five people from Annunciation won a tree. Our Philoptochos donated a Golden Odyssey Tree which was won by Angie Leventis and Pat & Deedy Aleck sponsored a Plum Fantasy Tree. Other winners were Pat Aleck, Despina Kokalis, Presbytera Stella Bekris, and Irene Vafiadis. What a special day it was and as President Jeannie Ranglas stated we are close to netting about $40,000 for this luncheon to provide scholarships to our Seminarians/Students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Brookline Massachusetts. Included in the Herald are pictures showing our members enjoying this memorable event. I hope more will plan to attend next year and maybe you will win a tree!

On December 17th our Philoptochos celebrated with a Christmas luncheon at Nick’s restaurant in Rockway Beach. About 38 members plus our clergy joined together to celebrate the season with good food and song. It was a warm and festive time enjoyed by all. Our ladies and men too really know how to celebrate...

Looking to the New Year Events in 2014

Our Philoptochos members will celebrate with our Church family our annual Vasilopita on January 12, 2014. We will prepare a brunch as is our tradition in addition to serving the wonderful breads prepared by our Ladies for the day. It is such fun to see who wins the coin at each table. We ask for a nominal donation to aid in the support of our ministries. We wish good luck for those who win the coin for the year!

We are planning for our annual Crab Feed on Friday, January 31, 2014. This year marks the 32nd year that this event has been organized by Philoptochos. Everyone looks forward to the crab so ask your friends and relatives to join for a truly gastronomic meal and fill out the flyer enclosed in the Herald. Get your reservations in early to enable us to order the right amount of crab. Chair of the event Mariam Arsinoos and committee will answer any questions you might have. Just call the Cathedral at 415-864-8000 or email Mariam at mariammannunciation@gmail.com.

And, of course, there are more events to come in 2014!
Again, I wish all a very happy New Year. Kalo Neo Eto!
Patricia Aleck
Philoptochos President

Annual Cretan Glendi January 18

The annual Cretan Glendi will take place at Annunciation Cathedral on January 18, 2013. The event will benefit our youth programs and the Annunciation Cathedral Building Fund. Please contact John Monolakis to RSVP at 415 244-4534 or at delphi2881@sbcglobal.net.

Community Link Continues
Ministering to Those in Need

Community Link, now in its ninth year of existence, is a group of Annunciation parishioners who meet once a month on a drop-in basis to visit members of our community who may be confined due to illness or age. We travel to hospitals, nursing homes and private residences. Many of those we visit no longer have family or friends to support them and just need to know there is someone who cares. A short visit or phone call can lift one’s spirits a great deal. If anyone in the community knows of any other home bound parishioners to add to our list or would like to join us for a visit, please contact Pauline Oetzel at poetzel@hotmail.com. Upcoming Community Link dates are: January 18, February 15, and March 15.

“When an earthly king visits a place in his country, the benefit of his visit is felt long after. The Lord, the King, visited mankind on earth and the benefit of that visit will be felt to the end of time.”

– St. Nicholas the Serb
Xronia Polla for Namedays in January!

Best wishes to the following individuals who celebrate their name-days in January:

John Eliopoulos
Johnny Economopoulos
Toni Ambus
Antonios Vozaites
Athan Dalianes
Athanasios Tsiatis
Athanasios Kastoras
Basil Crow
Basil Tonas
Basil John Vlahos
Bill Karas
Bill Kromydas
Billie Salevouris
Joanne Kavalaris
Joanna Karas
Joanne Glafkides
John Curd
John Georgiadis
John Johns

John Kallas
John Monolakis
John & Mary Rally
John Zambelis
John Dekaristos
John Panomitros
John Gumas
John Bardis
John Lampros
John A. Coundouris
John Ward
John Calofonos
Vasiliki Moulas
Vasiliki Tsafopoulos
Mr. & Mrs. Justin Kyriacou
Vicky A. Moulas
William Mares
Yianni Sogotis

Saint Basil the Great, January 1
St. John the Baptist, January 7
Saint Anthony the Great, January 17
Saint Athanasios, January 18

You may wish to consider sponsoring a coffee hour on the Sunday closest to your nameday, as a way of celebrating with our parish family. For more information, please contact Mike Canellos at (415) 864-8814.

** The information above was taken from the data submitted on our 2014 stewardship pledge cards. If your name does not appear on this list, please feel free to give your information to our stewardship data table in the gallery, or by filling out a 2014 stewardship pledge card. **

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School Korner

As we complete another year, I look back and reflect on the many blessings of our Sunday school program. In 2013 we accomplished so many things. We have increased our class sizes of regular attendance, our special programs continue to draw families from all over the Bay Area, and we have a strong group of committed Sunday School teachers.

Our Christmas program was a huge success! Thank you to Chrisoula Pezo for her efforts spearheading the day’s activities. Her commitment to our program is amazing!

January 2014 promises to be the beginning of a great year! We begin the year with plans for a fruitful Oratorical Festival. Topics are already available online at www.goarch.org. Parents are encouraged to get their children involved in this very rewarding program. Details to come next month, with our festival in March.

Calling for help and parent/grandparent volunteers to help with Easter activities. Please contact Denise Yeilding at dyeilding@yahoo.com. Our Easter activities will take 12-15 volunteers.

Please bring your children/ grandchildren to Sunday School on time. Lessons and art projects begin at 10:30am. Instruction is for one hour and then the children are escorted to communion. Think about including a New Year’s resolution for spirituality and religion to be a top priority in your family’s busy list of things to do. A strong spiritual base is important in this day for our children as there are so many temptations in school.

Happy New Year!

Denise Yeilding
Principal of Sunday School

“Just as a candle is lighted from another candle, so also a good work is born from a good work.”
- St. Nicholas the Serb

“When I pray, coincidences happen, and when I don’t pray, they don’t.”
- William Temple

“Glory be to God for all things.”
- Saint John Chrysostom
The Annunciation Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos Society presents its:

32nd Annual Crab Feed

Friday, January 31, 2014
Cocktail Reception: 6:00 p.m.
Dinner: 7:30 p.m.

$55.00 per person

Reservations will be secured only by receipt of payment

For Reservations call:
Annunciation Cathedral at 415.864.8000

Valet Parking Available

Name:___________________________________________________
Address:__________________________________________________
Telephone Number:_______________________________________

Please reserve___________ticket(s) and/or___________table(s)
(Maximum 10 people per table. Include the names of all guests to
be seated at the table)

Make checks payable to: Annunciation Philoptochos, Attn: Crab Feed
Please mail completed reservation form and check by January 20 to:
Annunciation Cathedral: 245 Valencia Street San Francisco, CA 94103
THE ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL
LADIES PHILOPTOCHOS SOCIETY OF SAN FRANCISCO

INVITES YOU TO JOIN US
FOR OUR

Annual Vasilopita and Brunch

SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2014

IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING DIVINE LITURGY
KORINTHIAS COMMUNITY HALL

For questions or to reserve call the Cathedral
at 415-864-8000 by January 3, 2013 or email
p_aleco@sbcglobal.net
Young Adults Attend Great Vespers and Hold Gift Exchange

Last December 19, our young adult group participated in a Great Vespers service at the Cathedral, which was chanted by a group of Bay Area young adults, led by our own Basil Crow and Sotiri Vlavianos. Following the Vespers service, our young adults went to dinner at Mau Noodle House on Valencia Street, and held our annual White elephant gift exchange! A great time was had by all.

Next month our young adults will be heading to a wine bar on January 30. Hope you can make it!

**The Cathedral Young Adult group is open to all young adults 22-35(ish)**

For more information on any of our youth groups, feel free to contact Father Niko at fatherniko@annunciation.org, or visit the “Youth of Annunciation Cathedral San Francisco” Facebook group page.
JOY Celebrates Christmas at the Kyriacou Home!

Our Cathedral JOY met at the Kyriacou home on December 10, and had a wonderful time with special guest Father Stephen! In addition to playing icebreaker games, the kids made Christmas ornaments which were donated to the Metropolis Christmas Tree, as well as gingerbread houses which everyone took home (or ate there!). Many thanks to Chris and Irene for opening their home to us.

Next month, we’ll learn about the Feast of Theophany, as we celebrate the feast of the Lord’s baptism. Hope to see you there!

**JOY (Junior Orthodox Youth) is open to all young people between grades 3-6**

“Repentance is not a matter for one hour or for one day. Repentance should be our inner occupation to the end of life.”

– St. Nicholas the Serb

GOYA Winter Camp at Saint Nicholas Ranch
January 2-4, 2014

The Metropolis of San Francisco Youth Office is organizing a winter camp to be held at Saint Nicholas Ranch this coming January 24, 2014. The retreat will be organized by Paul Gikas, the Metropolis Youth Director, with assistance from Jacob Saylor and the rest of the summer camp team. The retreat will be for all youth grades 9-12. Schedule, prices and more information will be forthcoming, but for now, save the date!
Altar Group Schedule for October
The schedule for the month will be as follows:

January 5- Group 1
January 12- Group 2
January 19- Group 3
January 26- Group 4

The altar group rosters are as follow:

Group 1: Niko Manetas, Stelio Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, and George Tsokas

Group 2: Anthony Obester, Demetri Kontonis, Andrew Vellis, Panagioti Sogotis, and Yianni Sogotis

Group 3: Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Steven Monolakis, and Steven Chiappari

Group 4: Jonas Tesfai, Nathan Tesfai, Hari Manetas, Bobby Kontonis, Matthew Nuris

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group, who are above the age of 10, feel free to contact Father Niko Bekris at fatherniko@annunciation.org. Thank you also to Nektarios McKnight for guiding and instructing our altar servers each Sunday. As always, if anyone has any questions or suggestions, feel free to let us know. Thanks!

"Whoever attunes himself and studies the meaning of sacred songs from beginning to end will find himself approaching God."
– St. Gregory Palamas

SACRAMENTS AND SERVICES
At the The Cathedral

WEDDING
Edward Gagliardi and Mary Cocores had their marriage blessed at the Cathedral on December 22. Their sponsor is Eleni Cocores.

Na zisete!

FUNERALS
Louis Vitalis, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 13, was buried on December 20. He is survived by his son, Nick Vitalis.

George K. Sarantitis, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 18, was buried on December 23. He is survived by his brother Tony Sarantitis.

- Mary Hontalas, who fell asleep in the Lord on December 16, was buried on December 27. She is survived by her sons Charles, John, and Philip Hontalas.

Aionia i mnimi! (Memory eternal)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
<th>SATURDAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>Orthros, 9 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am,</td>
<td></td>
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<td>Orthros of the Lord, St. Basil the Great</td>
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<td>Metropolis GOYA Winter Camp</td>
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<td>Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice</td>
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<td>Basketball Open Gym 6 pm-11 pm</td>
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<td>Metropolis GOYA Winter Camp</td>
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<td>Construction Meeting, 10 am</td>
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<td>The Great Hours; 10 am</td>
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<td>Basketball Practice 6 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
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<td>Greek School, 10 am</td>
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<td>Orthros, 9 am, Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am</td>
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<td>The Eve of Theophany; Blessing of the</td>
<td>Blessing of the Waters 10 am</td>
<td>Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy, 10 am</td>
<td>Basketball Practice 6 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Basketball Open Gym 6 pm-11 pm</td>
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<td>Waters Parish Council Oath of Office</td>
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<td>Greek School, 10 am</td>
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<td>Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice</td>
<td>JOY, 6:30 pm</td>
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<td>Basketball Practice 6 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Basketball Open Gym 6 pm-11 pm</td>
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<td>Cretan Glendi, 6 pm</td>
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<td>Construction Meeting, 10 am</td>
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<td>Crab Feed; Reception 7:30, Dinner 7:30</td>
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<td>Sunday School 10:30 am Dance Practice</td>
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<td>Basketball Practice 6 pm - 9:30 pm</td>
<td>Three Hierarchs; Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 10 am Young Adult Discussion, 6:30 pm Basketball Open Gym 6 pm-11 pm</td>
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“Any heart that has come to its senses wants to surrender to Someone who not only is all-powerful but has proved that he will sacrifice anything for our good.” — Timothy Keller
Direct your mind toward the Lord, guard yourself with the sign of the Cross, call upon the Holy and All-pure One and the holy God-pleasers, and especially upon your guardian angel for aid— and do not be afraid.

– St. Nicholas the Serb