WE CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO CELEBRATE
THE 95TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL

Annunciation Cathedral Gala
SATURDAY • NOVEMBER 5TH, 2016 | ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL | 245 VALENCIA STREET, SAN FRANCISCO

FEATURING CELEBRITY & IRON CHEF CAT CORA
Cat Cora made television history in 2005 when she became the first female Iron Chef on Food Network’s Iron Chef America. Since then, she’s become a prominent figure in the culinary community and beyond as an accomplished author, restaurateur, contributing editor, television host, avid philanthropist, lifestyle entrepreneur, and proud mother of four.

COCKTAIL RECEPTION 6:00PM | DINNER & AUCTION 7:00PM
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT & DANCING
BLACK TIE
COMPLIMENTARY VALET PARKING

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE RESERVATIONS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.ANNUNCIATION.ORG
FOR QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT US AT CATHEDRALGALA2016@GMAIL.COM OR CALL US AT 415.864.8000

BENEFITING THE ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL BUILDING FUND #SFGOPGALA2016
Annunciation Cathedral Gala
– Saturday, November 5th
“Build me a sanctuary and I will appear among you.” (Exodus 25:8)

The Annunciation Cathedral cordially invites you to join in celebrating its 95th anniversary. As noted above, a black tie Gala commemorating this milestone will be held on Saturday, November 5, 2016 at the Cathedral. We will be greeted by valet parking (included) in front of the new Cathedral. We will enter the new Cathedral (some of us for the first time) and dream of the day when the interior will be completed, with iconography and all. Just by entering this landmark structure, we are lending our support for its completion and its consecration to the glory of God in 2016.

As indicated above, we look forward to a special evening with Celebrity/Iron Chef Cat Cora overseeing the cooking! Tickets are $350., tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. There are sponsorship opportunities beginning at $5,000. In other words, in exchange for a donation, beginning at $5,000., one receives so many Gala tickets and priority seating. All this is explained in the invitation, which you have received by now. And, of course, all proceeds will benefit the Cathedral’s Building Fund, helping complete the rebuilding of this awesome Metropolis Cathedral. Meanwhile, if you would like more information about the event or about becoming a sponsor, please contact co-chairs Tessa Ambus, Irene Kyriacou, or Paul Sogotis at Cathedral-gala2016@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you.

Contributors to the Building Fund Are Renewing their Support

As noted in last month’s Herald, the Capital Campaign Committee sent a letter to its contributors who had made a pledge to the Building Fund and have completed or who are nearing completion of their pledge, as well as to those who made a one-time gift, with a view to making another gift once they could see the progress. The letter was sent so as to give everyone the opportunity to renew their support this historic rebuilding of the Cathedral, which is shaping up to be a landmark, in the heart of San Francisco. All this came about because of you and your faith, in this community and in its future.

A few weeks ago, as noted in the letter, a few parishioner-- entirely on their own--approached the Capital Campaign Committee and said, “we’re accustomed to giving so much per month. We like what we see, and we want to continue giving what we’ve been giving.” In some cases, they doubled their pledge or their gift. In other cases, they

To look to the cross means to render one’s whole life dead and crucified to the world, unmoved by evil. Truly it is as the prophet says, “They nail their own flesh with the fear of God.”

The nail would be the self-control that holds the flesh. St. Gregory of Nyssa, Life of Moses, 274
Construction Update: by Ken Katen

There was a lot of conspicuous progress made on the new Cathedral this summer. Through the rest of June, the new, signature copper domes and architectural details were nearly completed, with only minor copper work left out so that the stucco work could proceed. The copper roofs were very shiny at first, and could be seen blazing in the sunshine from Twin Peaks! They’ve now begun their long toning-down as they weather, going from shiny to dull brown, and finally to green. Regardless of their appearance, the copper should last for the life of the new Cathedral.

Besides the externally visible changes, work has also proceeded on the parking garage and its two elevator lobbies. The fire sprinkler system is complete, the garage ventilation system is well along, the electrical equipment is going to be installed this month, and the elevator is slated for delivery in October. The elevator and other related finish construction is needed so that the parking garage can be put into service while the rest of the Cathedral construction moves to completion.

Other next steps are installation of the tile roofs (October) followed by dismantling the scaffolding and presentation of the (nearly complete) new Cathedral facade to the neighborhood. After that, the courtyard and walkways will be waterproofed and have their pavers installed. The stone wainscot and portal surrounds will also be installed after the waterproofing is completed. At that point (early next year) the exterior will be largely complete, and we can begin work on the inside!

OIKOS Lecture Series Continues:
Professor Klironomos, Professor Steven Harris, Ph. D. to speak

As announced in the Herald, as well as our weekly Sunday bulletins, OIKOS (Orthodox in Koinonia Outreach Services), under the direction of Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Ph.D., and the assistance of Dr. Tony Elite, sponsors a series of talks aimed at informing, engaging, and edifying our parishioners in any number of areas involving individual and communal spiritual growth, family dynamics, and parish life. The lectures take place the first Sunday of each month, during the coffee hour.

Future speakers include Martha Klironomos, Ph.D. Dr. Katina Kostoulas, Dr. Anthony Elite, Janine Economides, wife of Professor Nicholas Economides, and Steven Harris, Ph.D.

Our talk by Professor Martha Klironomos, which was scheduled for Sunday, September 11, is being rescheduled for Sunday, February 12, 2017, immediately following the Divine Liturgy, during the coffee hour. Professor Klironomos will speak on the Bloomsbury Group and how their travels to Greece and Italy inspired the integration of Byzantine motifs into their art. Professor Martha Klironomos has served as Director of the Center for Modern Greek Studies, the Nikos Kazantzakis Chair, at S.F. State University. She has been teaching courses in Modern Greek language and literature and Comparative and English literature, at S.F. State University, since 1996.

Meanwhile, Dr. Harris, a certified Jungian Psychotherapist and Psychoanalytic Psychotherapist, will speak to us on Sunday, November 13 (the feast of St. John Chrysostom). A Clinical Psychologist practicing in Newport Beach, CA, he worships at the Nativity of the Most Holy Theotokos Serbian Orthodox Church in Irvine, CA. Dr. Harris is also the former Clinical Director for the Center for Individual and Family Therapy in Orange, CA and was Professor at the California Graduate Institute and Professor and Dean of Academic Affairs at the American Behavior Studies Institute, where he also edited the Psychotherapy Integration Journal.
A partial view of the façade, showing the new crosses, prior to stucco.

Panoramic view of the copper domed roof against the San Francisco skyline.

An evening shot, showing the illuminated cross over the copper dome.

A partial view of the parking component, beneath the new Cathedral.

Interior view facing west, towards the choir loft.

Interior view facing east, towards the ieron.
For those parishioners or friends of the Cathedral who wish to make a donation, you may consider donating funds from your stock portfolio. If you were to sell this stock on the open market most likely you will pay capital gain taxes. To avoid paying capital gain taxes, you simply donate the stock to the Annunciation Cathedral, a non-profit 501(c)3 religious corporation. The stock needs to be publicly traded on one of the exchanges (NY, NASDAQ, etc.) then you simply report it on your tax return as a noncash charitable contribution. You get the appreciated value for the donation and do not pay tax on the capital gain. Then all you will need for taxes is a letter of acknowledgment from the Cathedral, with the name of the stock, date of donation and number of shares received. For additional information regarding the transfer of stock to the Cathedral, please contact Father Stephen at fatherstephen@annunciation.org or Angie Leventis at aleventis3@comcast.net.

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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.

Gift Giving to the Capital Campaign

For those parishioners or friends of the Cathedral who wish to make a donation, you may consider donating funds from your stock portfolio. If you were to sell this stock on the open market most likely you will pay capital gain taxes. To avoid paying capital gain taxes, you simply donate the stock to the Annunciation Cathedral, a non-profit 501(c)3 religious corporation.

Gift Giving to the Capital Campaign

Parking during Construction (for a few more months-thankfully)

Parking for up to 70 cars is available in the lot behind the Cathedral, at 334 14th Street and on the street. Stewards of the Cathedral are charged only $5 to park, by showing their discount card; the Cathedral will pay $7 of the parking cost for Stewards. To pick up a parking pass or to discuss your stewardship, please see Gus Vouchilas, our Stewardship Chairman. If you are a supporting member of the Cathedral, in other words a Steward, you get the card. Street parking is also available on Sundays, especially along the 217’ construction zone in front of the Cathedral. For your convenience, an attendant is on hand each Sunday to monitor the drop off zone and direct parking to the parking lot behind the Cathedral. We kindly ask our parishioners to be considerate of those with disabilities, giving them parking preference in the spaces on Valencia Street. This relationship with the lot behind the Cathedral will end as soon as our own parking structure is up and running.
Efharisto! Thank you!

Below is a list of those who have made, or are making, monetary gifts to help rebuild the Cathedral. (Those who may have made a pledge but have not paid anything towards their pledge are not included.) We are listing the names of active donors in the appropriate of giving. If a name is in italics, it means that individual has fallen asleep in the Lord. When the Cathedral is completed, a final listing, with minimum gifts of $1,000, will be inscribed on a donor wall in the new Cathedral. May God remember them in His Kingdom as “Blessed and Ever-Memorable Founders and Benefactors of this Holy Church.”

**Pinnacle**
Mountanos, Anne and Angelo

**Founders ($1,000,000 +)**
Costopoulos, Katherine

**Cornerstone**
($250,000 - $999,999)
Athan-Olin, Virginia
Mountanos, Michael
S. & Erika
Moulinos, Alexander & Mari

**Grand Benefactors**
($100,000 - $249,999)
Anonymous (AN)
Garifalakis, Isidoros
Panagotacos, Dr. Peter J.
Nicolacakis, Dean & Maria
Konstin, Gus
Alek, Patricia & Demetria

**Benefactors**
($75,000 - $99,999)
Gavras, Nicholas & Katerina
Makras, Mike
Kotsas, Helen
Vanquis, James & Louise
Voulgaris, Nicholas & Vasiliki

**Major Benefactors**
($50,000 - $74,999)
Gavras, George
Nicholas & Janine
Gavros, George & Theodora
Kyriacou, Chris & Irene
Meyer, Beverly & Jerry

**Benefactors**
($25,000 - $49,999)
Aslanoglou, Despina
Chiappari, Philip & Annette
de-Simone, Giovanna Maria & Goldfarb, David

**Special Donors**
($15,000 - $24,999)
Ambus, Dr. George & Tessa
Kallas, John & Kris
Coudouris, John
Cusulos, Nan
Delis, Nicholas & Stephanie
Fousekis, Vlassis & Kalliope
Glimidakis, Vasilios & Family
Haras, Louis & Panagiotia
Kokalis, Despina
Kontonis, Nick & Athena
Koutoulas, Kosta P. & Stephanie

**Majors ($10,000 - $14,999)**
Ambus, Anthony & Zetta
Asimos, Dr. Chrisila
Banos, Peter
Curd, John & Vivian
Dalianos, Thanos & Marguerite
Duggan’s Serra Mortuary
Elite, Dr. Anthony
Fousekis, Spiri & Shareen
Homer Family Foundation
in Memory of Tryphon Nichols
In Honor of the Baptism of James & gia Costouros
Kallas, John & Kris
Kastoras, Tom & Niki
Kontantinidis, Dino & Bella
Koutoulas, Gus
Lekas, Loula A.
Makras, Sophie
Makras, Elaine
Manetas, Peter & Maria
Miloridon, Mary & Kosta
Michel, Mary
Morales, Helen
Moulas, Vasiliki
Mungia, Helen
Nager, Perri
Navarino Messenian Society
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
Pan, Michael & Elaine
Pan Cretan Association
Pantages, Gregory & Mary
Philoptochos -

**Special Patrons**
($5,000 - $9,999)
Argyres Family
Poulakidas, Dean
Poulakidas, Irene & Manetas, Michael
In Memory of Georgia & Harry Manetas
Poulakidas, Sake & Irene
Rangelas, Jeannie & Gerry
Roumeliotis, Theofanis & Costouros, Dr. John
Stratakis, Ari & Marcy
Thomas, James & Diane
Tomas, Basil & Mary
Vallee, Katherine
Vorriotes, Vassiliki & Dionisios

**Special Patrons**
($5,000 - $9,999)
Arvanitidis, Nicholas & Athena
Augustus, Angie
Balian, Robert & Annamarie
Bardis, Mr. & Mrs. John D.
Bissas, Maria
Brattis, Dionisia
Cazanis, Peter & Katherine
Chiappari, James
Costos, Christopher
Frangos, Ilia
Garibaldi, David & Kathy
Giranis, Steve
Haralambopoulos, Costa & Ria
Hernandez, Sofia & Jose
Ioannis D. Terzis Family
Karas, George
Kasaris, Mary
Kontonis, Andrew & Maria
Kontrafouri, Tom & Joyce
Kosaris, Paul & Irene
Kouloupolous, Georgia
Koutoulas, Panagiotia
Kyrachou, Justin
Lampros, John & Magda
Lampros, Mr. & Mrs. John
In memory of Georgia Dalikas
Makras, Thalia
Misthos, Michael & Christina
Nicholas, Afroula
Oussiopoulos, Alexander & Lula
Panagotacos, Connie
Above is a view of the Cathedral, looking west. Notice the ieron dome in the foreground and the central dome in the center. The photograph was taken on August 15. Below is a similar view, taken on September 15. It shows the progress which has been made. The next step is to position the clay tile over the flat roof areas, remove the scaffolding, and begin the finishes to the courtyard area, the façade, and the underground garage.
It is a Greek Feast All Weekend  By Serginho Roosblad • Reprinted from an article on SFGate

Long time festival goers and others who came for the first time on Friday kicked off the weekend celebration of Greek food and culture at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral on Valencia Street. The three-day festival, in its 66th year, aims to bring together the Greek community, “while offering a window into Greek culture to outsiders,” said organizer Deno Konstantinidis.

Although the festival at 245 Valencia St. has been held for six decades, its importance grew in the aftermath the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, which destroyed the cathedral – one of the main centers for the San Francisco Greek community. “What we decided then, was to rebuild not the big cathedral first, but the gymnasium, so we can actually have functions here,” said Konstantinidis.

The money connected from the gym’s use is financing the rebuilding of the cathedral, which officials said they plan to open in 2017, 28 years after the earthquake destroyed the old church.

As 80-year-old Lula Ossipoff went from table to table in the main hall asking visitors if they wanted to buy a $5 raffle ticket, she stopped to chat with some who she has known for years. “I’ve been coming here all my life, that shows how important this place is to me,” she said.

Ossipoff was baptized and married in the old church, which was built in 1921. Her daughters too. Her youngest, she said, had her wedding at the cathedral one week before the devastating event. It was the last wedding held there and Ossipoff looks forward to seeing it reopen next year.

For the moment, she said, she was enjoying showing people what the Greek community has to offer. “We probably make the best Greek food in the area.”

Two festival early birds agreed. “It’s low pressured and very good and cheap food,” said Kris Cere, 28. He and a friend, were visiting San Francisco from Boston and happened to stumble upon the festival online. Cere said that it’s not just the food that makes the event great. “The people here are amazing. It’s an amazing hyperlocal community that you won’t expect until you get here.”

Still, the backbone of the festival is the Greek food and displaying the diversity of the kitchen. According to organizer Konstantinidis, it is the “yayas” or grannies, who make the festival what it is. “They’ve been doing this for many years and we got a ton of stuff here. A lot of Greek festivals don’t have what we do,” he said.

“It’s made with a lot of love and passion,” said 84-year-old Mary Mitchel one of the yaya’s in charge of food that included moussaka which is baked eggplants with meat filling, pastitsio, a layered ground beef and pasta dish and many people’s favorite: gyros with tzatziki.

Vicky Moulas, 75, added, “We also like to impress the people,”

The cooks said it takes about three weeks to prepare for the festival and they’ll be working around the clock the whole weekend. “Some people are coming here every year, just for the food,” said Moulas.

“And when it’s all over, we’re going to start preparing for Christmas.”

By Serginho Roosblad
Posted September 17, 2016 12:29 pm
Reprinted from an article on SFGate

Above is the central dome of the Katholikon at the Most Holy Church of the Holy Sepulchre (also known as the Church of the Resurrection) in Jerusalem.
San Francisco’s Only Greek Food Festival
Yet Another Success: Now a Festival of Memories

Below are photos of our Food Festival, which was held September 16, 17, and 18. They were forwarded to the printers and inserted below as a remembrance of this wonderful three-day event which showcased our faith and culture. The photographs speak for themselves. Meanwhile, we thank those who supported it in every way, from the chairs, to those who prepared, those who served, those who cleaned, and those who just showed up. God bless you for making it all happen.
Stewardship Growth Speaks for Itself

Below is the most recent report submitted by the Stewardship Committee to the Parish Council. It is self-explanatory. It shows that stewardship (that is, the support of the Cathedral and its ministries by means of an annual pledge) is continuing to grow. The term “unique 2016 pledges,” meanwhile, indicates that the individuals whose names are listed had either pledged to the Cathedral prior to 2012 or, in most cases, are new to the Cathedral. We welcome them and thank them for their support.

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**Report:**
Need 43 pledges to meet LY - 6 months to go- good
Good decrease in outstanding balances YTD
Need to focus on outstanding balances next 4/5 months
Need to focus on the 90 who pledged in 15 but not 16 - 2nd letter?
2nd Quarter reminders requested..sent?
7 pledges came in- 4 @ 600 dollar amount vs 2 @ 1000

Per Mariam, month decrease may be pledge adjustments and/or deceased stewards
A Word About Stewardship: Good News!

We are pleased to share with you that financial Stewardship pledge income received in 2015 was the highest in recent history and 2016 continues this trend. In 2015, a total of 351 pledges came in totaling nearly $300,000. While this amount is essentially only about half of what it takes to keep the Cathedral operating, it was a great beginning to what promises to be continued growth for our community. The average pledge amount has increased over recent years and that is a testimony to your support. The average pledge amount for 2016 is currently at $888.00, a 13.5% increase over last year; we can easily reach a $1000.00 annual pledge average by the end of the year. Our annual pledge goal for 2016 is to exceed $300,000. With your continued support, love for the Lord and His people, and willingness, we can easily achieve this goal. So, thank you for your continued support.

On August 17, the Youth Directors of our Metropolis met at the Cathedral and, afterwards, toured the new Cathedral. We also had a FIRST: We processed with the 200-year old icon of the Holy Mother of God Odeghetria and celebrated the Paraklesis service, invoking her intercessions upon our youth throughout the Metropolis and the timely completion of the Cathedral. Shown above are some of the youth directors, with His Eminence Metropolitan Gerasimos and with Father Stephen and Presbytera Vasiliki (Aliki).

At the Paraklesis

“Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them” (Matthew 18:20)

We should show great diligence not to fall away from the perfection which is attainable but to acquire as much as is possible: To that extent let us make progress within the realm of what we seek. For the perfection of human nature consists perhaps in its very growth in goodness.

St. Gregory of Nyssa, Life of Moses, 10
Parish Assembly On Sunday, October 30; Parish Council Elections December 11

Parishioners of the Annunciation Cathedral are invited to attend the second regular Parish Assembly for 2016. This will take place in the Cathedral’s Korinthias Hall on Sunday, October 30, following the Divine Liturgy.

The Agenda is as follows:
Opening Prayer
1. Election of Assembly Chair
2. Reading/Approval of the November 22, 2015 Minutes of the Parish Assembly (A spring, 2016 Parish Assembly was not held)
3. Treasurer’s Report
4 Reports:
   a. Stewardship
   b. 2016 Festival
   c. Youth
5. Capital Campaign and the Rebuilding of the Cathedral
6. Gala
7. Board of Auditors
8. Election of a Board of Elections (This year’s Parish Council elections will take place on Sunday, December 11, 2016), following the Divine Liturgy. Those elected will serve a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2017. The terms of seven (7) Parish Council members expire this year.
8. Old Business
9. New Business
Closing Prayer

Parishioners in good standing (that is, those who are ecclesiastically in good standing with the Orthodox Church, as defined in the Archdiocese Regulations, and who have met their stewardship obligations to the Cathedral) may participate in the Parish Assembly. Quorum requirements, as defined in the Parish By-laws are: 75% of the Parish Council (i.e. 12 out of 15 members), an equal number of other parishioners in good standing, plus the Dean of the Cathedral or, if fewer than 12 members of the Parish Council are present, then 75 parishioners in good standing, plus the Dean of the Cathedral.

Introduction to Orthodoxy Class
The Cathedral’s Intro to Orthodoxy class, taught by Alexander Kozak, has now entered its eighth year! The class is especially intended for those who are thinking about converting to Orthodoxy and for family members and friends who would like to support them on their journey, but it is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith.

The class explores Christian theology and practice through reading selections of Scripture, the Church Fathers, the lives of the Saints, and other texts representative of the Orthodox worldview. These readings are the starting point for our discussions, which aim at clarifying doctrine and worship and helping us to discover (or rediscover), week after week, why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact Alexandros Kozák at orthodoxy-ag-kozak@sneakemail.com.

Have You Ever Given Thought to Serving on the Parish Council?
If you are reading this article, you are, in fact, giving thought to serving on the Parish Council. You may be wondering, what is the Parish Council? Or, how much time does someone have to give to serve on the Parish Council? These are good questions. The Archdiocese Regulations define the Parish Council as follows: “To serve on a Parish Council is a ministry and all those who serve are called to represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith to all whom they meet in all aspects of life. The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members fixed by the Parish Bylaws or local statute according to the needs of the Parish. The Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly and to the respective Hierarch for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes as set forth in the Charter and these Regulations” (Article 24:Section 1).

So, to serve on the Parish Council is, first and foremost, a call to discipleship. “To represent Christ and the Orthodox Faith…” To be witnesses of the Faith. To be modern-day apostles. That’s a high calling. It speaks of a sacred mission. In considering serving on the Parish Council, one needs to consider putting one’s faith into practice “to all whom they meet in all aspects of life.” At home, at work, at school, on the golf course and, of course, at church.”

Secondly, to serve on the Parish Council is to be part of a team: “The Parish Council shall consist of the Priest, as the head of the Parish, and a number of elected lay members…” Yes, the Priest is the head of the Parish. This does not mean, however, that he can do things alone. He cannot. He works with the faithful people of the parish, for the purpose of proclaiming the good news of Christ, that is, the good news of our salvation, and for lifting up people both inside and outside the parish. Yes, by implementing parish programs. By involving parishioners both in the worship life of the parish and every other aspect of the parish...religious, social, educational. And, the sky’s the limit when it comes to programs. Don’t look at our current parish programs,
like dance and basketball, like Sunday School and Greek School, like shut-in visitations, like festivals and Mother’s Day luncheons and the like. Think out of the box. Think about bereavement seminars, think about senior ministry. Think about faith education for adults. Literally, the sky’s the limit. And these can all be accomplished when everyone works together, in a united way, motivated by faith. The number of lay people who make up the Parish Council is 15. Seven are elected one year to a two-year term, and eight are elected the following year to a two-year term. In 2016, 7 parishioners in good standing will be elected on Sunday, December 11 to a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2017. In order to run, the prospective candidate “must be a parishioner in good standing of the Parish for at least 1 year immediately preceding the date of the election and must live his or her life in accordance with the Faith and canons of the Church” (Article 25: Section 1). “In good standing” means being a current steward, that is, being a supporter of the ministries of the Parish, by means of a stewardship pledge, for at least a year prior to January 1, 2017. In addition, the prospective candidate must attend a seminar, which will be held at the Cathedral on Tuesday, November 15 at 7 p.m. (Article 25, Section 3:A.).

Lastly, “the Parish Council is responsible to the Parish Assembly and to the respective Hierarch for conducting all Parish affairs in keeping with the mission, aims and purposes…” In other words, it reports to the entire Parish, which meets twice a year, and also to the Metropolitan. It is answerable, as well, to the Board of Auditors, who examine the financial transactions of the Parish. For 2016, these auditors are: Bella Konstantinidis, Dr. Elena Lingas, and Denis Lappos.

Now, does all this sound complicated? Yes, and no. Yes, because it requires participation. And, yes, there are rules. By the way, the Parish Council meets monthly and, so, you would have to carve out a couple of hours a month for the meetings. That’s besides meetings of subcommittees, on which the candidate would like to serve. So, yes, serving on the Parish Council requires time and commitment. But, no, it’s not complicated. Not if you do what you do in life, that has meaning, with passion. If you love to serve others. If you would like to see the Cathedral become stronger as it evolves into a community of service in these challenging times, now that we are building a landmark church in the heart of this most vibrant City of San Francisco.

If you’ve read up to this point, you are ready to serve as a member of the Parish Council. We invite you to contact Father Stephen (fatherstephen@annunciation.org) and tell him you’re ready. He’ll advise you of the next steps, which include the placement of your name in nomination at the October 23 Parish Assembly and, perhaps, your attendance at one of the regular meetings of the Parish Council, as an observer, to see what’s going on. Welcome!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

Autumn greetings from Annunciation Philoptochos. Volunteering with open hearts and working hand-in-hand, our ladies with parish members, prepared the delicious and popular Greek pastries for the “Taste of Greece” 2016 festival.

How blessed we are to have such talent and commitment from our church community. We thank everyone who volunteered in the pastry booth.

As we thank Jan Petrou for her leadership, as Philoptochos Vice-President, during this difficult time of Pat Aleck’s illness, we pause to send our get well wishes and love to her. We are thankful for her progress, and look forward to her return to the helm of our Ladies Philoptochos. Perastika, Pat!

Pat Aleck writes:
Greetings from Philoptochos as we start the new 2016-2017 Ecclesiastical Year! We are raring to go to fulfill the commitments of all our charities on the National, Community and Church levels. During the summer months a small core group of our members and men have worked to prepare pastries and food items for our Taste of Greece Festival. The cooking schedule was tight but these women and men persevered to make sure everything was completed. My hat goes off to them and I congratulate them for their dedication. Without them this festival would not have many of the food items. My thanks to V.P. Jan Petrou for stepping up to make sure everything was ordered, gathering the people and leading the charge for cooking. Again, well done!

Last year our Philoptochos for the first time prepared backpacks with all supplies for underprivileged children. This year under the direction of Mariam Arsinoos, the chapter is providing more backpacks for delivery to foster children. It is truly a rewarding experience to know children will be starting school with proper supplies. As we do with our Angel Tree project perhaps next year our church members

see page 14
can help us provide more materials for each backpack so we can double the number needed.

Following the Festival our Chapter will meet for its first meeting of the year to plan our events for fundraising. Following are some of the Annunciation, Philoptochos and Metropolis events taking place the ending months of this year. Save the Dates!

- **Annunciation Cathedral Gala** – Saturday, November 5, 2016. Let’s have all our Annunciation Philoptochos join the event to make it a major fundraising event for our Cathedral.
- **Metropolis Gala honoring Jeannie and Gerry Ranglas** – Saturday, November 12, 2016 in Newport Beach.
- **Metropolis Philoptochos Light the Path Luncheon** – Saturday, November 19, 2016 supporting our Seminarians/Students at Hellenic College/Holy Cross in Brookline, Massachusetts in Castro Valley, California.

On a personal note my deepest thanks to the Annunciation Family members for your many cards, phone calls and notes. They truly helped me recoup during my illness.

*Patricia Aleck, Philoptochos President*

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**Community Link Continues Ministering to Those in Need**

Community Link, going on its 10th 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. Please keep Community Link and our home-bound brothers and sisters in your prayers! Meanwhile, the Cathedral takes this opportunity to extend its gratitude to Pauline Oetzel for heading Community Link since its inception. Under her leadership, Community Link has “linked” the church community with our home-bound parishioners, offering hope and the message of God’s love. We urge more parishioners to get involved with Community Link, as we plan for its future in the service of our fellow parishioners.

**Scripture describes another characteristic of this service to God:** The eye is not dimmed nor does the person age. For how can an eye which is always in the light be dimmed by the darkness from which it is always separated? And the person who by every means achieves incorruption in his whole life admits no corruption in himself. For he who has truly come to be in the image of God and who has in no way turned aside from the divine character bears in himself its distinguishing marks and shows in all things his conformity to the archetype; he beautifies his own should with what is incorruptible, unchangeable, and shares in no evil at all.

*St. Gregory of Nyssa, Life of Moses, 318*
Soup Kitchen: thank you for volunteering!

As noted, the Soup Kitchen operates the third Tuesday of every month. It involves food prep, hall setup, serving the meal and—so important!—cleanup. We also have a food pantry, so a few awesome volunteers come early to bag up canned/non-perishable goods for our guests to take with them. Some volunteers arrive earlier, but the typical timeframe is 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Won’t you consider volunteering once in a while? All you have to do is show up. By the way, there’s no age limit. We have teenagers volunteering and we have people “forever young” volunteering. It would be truly wonderful to expand our volunteer base, so we can do more. Please communicate your willingness to Father Stephen, fatherstephen@annunciation.org. He will put you in touch to those who’ve taken the lead and are coordinating this important ministry. Thank you.

Some of our guests, waiting for the food.

Community Kitchen
(Soup Kitchen) Chef Sign-Ups

Please sign up to help provide a quality, home cooked meal for our community’s most in need. Community Kitchen committee members will help you organize your menu to serve at least 50 guests. Volunteers will be there to assist in food preparation.

Chef options include (but are not limited to):
• Provide a list of needed ingredients a week in advance for soup kitchen committee member to purchase the Monday before each Community Kitchen.
• Prepare the meal in advance and have ingredients or pre-made food laid out with instructions in the kitchen by the Monday before the Community Kitchen.
• You can make a donation to underwrite the costs for a meal to be determined and planned by Community Kitchen committee members.

Community Kitchens are held every 3rd Tuesday of each month from 6:30 p.m. until food runs out. Volunteers begin prep around 4:30 p.m.

“I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat” (Matthew 25:35).

Thank you for your participation in this ministry. Your generosity is vital in serving those in need right here in our community. Thank you for putting God’s love into action. A Community Kitchen Committee Member will be in touch with you shortly!

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>October 18th:</td>
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All ready to serve.
Back to Basics


Under “Conditioning factors,” p. 131, Andrew Walls, the author, writes: “Eastern Christianity is marked by a sense of continuity, of embodying the ancient in the modern world, of being ‘living antiquity.’ The East had no middle ages, and the patristic period of the early Church fathers, which had ended in the West by 600 CE at the latest, lasted here until the fifteenth century. Among Greeks, for whom the very language of the faithful is the language of the apostles and their scriptures, the sense of timelessness can be overwhelming.

There is a lot of information in the above paragraph, a number of bullet points, if you will. Anyone even remotely familiar with the 2000-year old history of Christianity will be able to identify them. First, this Christianity is named “Eastern,” as opposed to “Western.” That is, it is the Christian Church of the East. If you draw a vertical line between Italy and Greece, Italy, along with the countries north and west of it, would fall into the section known as “Western Christianity,” and all the countries north and east of Greece, including Greece, would be part of “Eastern Christianity.” This is synonymous with the situation of the Churches, East and West, following the Great Schism of 1054.

“Continuity” is another defining term. Continuity denotes “no interruption.” The Church of the East considers itself as continuing the life of the Church depicted in the New Testament, without interruption. There were no schisms or divisions in it. This is claimed, in spite of the various Ecumenical Councils which were held, following which other groups were usually formed, as the Arians, following the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, the Monophysites, following the Council of Chalcedon in 451 AD, etc.

“Living Antiquity” is yet another descriptiv term. During the Great and Holy Council which took place on Crete in June of this year, there were some bishops who actually objected to referring to groups other than the Orthodox Church as “churches.” Those bishops might consider their kind of reactionism, a form of conservatism, as being “living antiquity.” However, “living antiquity” refers here to more than a literal identification with “the Church of the seven Councils.” It refers to a mindset that identifies itself with the Church of Scripture, the Church of the writers (or Church Fathers) of the very first centuries, like Justin Martyr, like Ignatius of Antioch, like John Chrysostom.

“No middle ages” means there was no period from which we have no sources. Rome, you will recall, was sacked in 410 AD. From that period, the next time we hear of something original is during the Renaissance, that is from the 14th to the 17th centuries. Our sources in literature and architecture from that period are dim. Not so in the East, where there was a thriving culture, at least until the fall of Constantinople in 1453 AD.

“Patristic period…15th century.” Here, again, Fathers of the Church refers to the period of church writers who had a profound impact on the thought of the Church and, indeed, shaped that thought, from the New Testament right up to people like St. Gregory of Thessalonike, Palamas. Palamas’ writings on the uncreated light are just as vital to theology as, say, the logos doctrine of Justin Martyr.

Finally, “the language of the Apostles and their Scriptures” refers to the Greek language, in which all the New Testament and some of the Old Testament were written (and into which all of the Old Testament was translated, 250 years before Christ!). On August 14, for example, when we read from St. Paul’s letter to the Corinthians (chapter 1, verses 10-17), the original text read: παρακαλῶ δὲ ὑμᾶς, αὐτελλου, διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες, καὶ μὴ ἢ ἐν ψυχῇ σχίσματα… Translated: “I appeal to you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all you agree and that there be no dissensions among you…” A good translation, among the most revered. But not exactly accurate. The words ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες literally translates as “that you may all say the same thing.” This translation is more poignant than “that you all agree.” Next, the word schismata means, literally, “tearings,” like ripping up a cloth or a piece of paper into shreds. Here, the metaphor is more graphic than the English word “dissensions” can convey. This is why we constantly read the original. We note that in that many non-Orthodox, so-called “Western” Churches, those studying theology typically study the Scriptures in their original language. It’s not a question of haughtiness, but of fidelity to that which is most genuine and, ultimately, to the Lord Himself.

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Sunday School News

“Of all holy works, the education of children is the most holy.”
~Saint Theophan the Recluse

We look forward to welcoming our returning and new Sunday School students on September 25th at 10:30 a.m. We are very excited to welcome two Sunday School teachers this year. Jedeiah Esteves who will be teaching our High School class and Evan Boukidis who will be teaching our 3rd and 4th grade class. Jedeiah is an active member of our YAL, has been a youth counselor and is passionate about the Orthodox faith and the impact it has on our youth. Evan is a student at USF studying for his degree in Music and Drama. Evan originates from the St. Sophia Church in LA and is also looking forward to sharing his talents with our Sunday School program this year. Please give them a warm welcome to our Annunciation Sunday School family!

Below is the Sunday School schedule for October:

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>October 2</td>
<td>Regular Classes</td>
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<td>October 9</td>
<td>Regular Classes</td>
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<td>October 16</td>
<td>Music Lesson – Lower Grades 1st-6th</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>Music Lesson – Upper Grades 7th-HS</td>
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<td>October 30</td>
<td>Sunday School – Halloween Unicef</td>
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Sunday School affirms the home as the center of our faith. Parents are the most important people in a child’s life, and learning about our Orthodox faith starts in the home. Teaching children about God is a seven-day-a-week effort, not something that can be done just an hour on Sunday morning. We pledge to do our best to support you in your child’s spiritual education but it is only with your active participation that we are able to share the importance and value of our Orthodox faith with your children.

“Please make every effort this year to get Sunday School and the children off to a good start by coming on time at 10:30 am.”

YOUTH NEWS

Goya News

Great to hear from you. Unfortunately, yes, I’ve been traveling a ton all summer. But the good news is I only had 3 trips forecasted for the fall, which isn’t so bad. I would like to host our first Goya meeting at the end of the month now that everyone is back from school and I’m back from travels. Do you have the parents emails? I sent emails to the kids but they obviously did not respond. Also, who is in charge of sign ups for working at the festival? I spoke to Jed and we were hoping to have a young adult spot.

Sincerely, Matia

Dance Group News

Autumn is upon us, and our directors have been very busy researching and compiling dance material for our groups’ upcoming dance year. Our dance program, meanwhile, resumed practice on Sunday, August 21st following liturgy. Our kids danced at this year’s Food Festival, September 16-18, and are now feverishly learning their songs and dances for the Folk Dance Festival, held over President’s weekend. This year’s FDF will take place in San Diego, CA. We are pleased to note that our groups have increased significantly this year. We take this opportunity to welcome parents and young people who are new to our program. The Cathedral’s award-winning dance program consists of experienced and dedicated directors, talented dancers, and supportive families and community. All groups are currently open to new dancers for a limited time. Our program encompasses everyone from four years old to young adult. Please contact Lea Lyberopoulos at karthia808@yahoo.com for more information.

To Mellon: Pre-K-K (must be at least 4 years old in Fall 2016)
Directed by Irene Kyriacou and Katerina Sarikakis

To Mellon 2: 1st-3rd grade in Fall 2016
Directed by Katerina Sarikakis, Eleni Taptelis, and Trina Mithos

Thisavi: 4th-6th grade in Fall 2016
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Spithes: 7th-11th grade in Fall 2016
Directed by Irene Kyriacou, Lea Lyberopoulos, and Lea Papavasiliou

Megalopolis: 18 and up
Directed by Michael and Nicole Garibaldi

Greek School News

Anthi writes us from Greece, where she has been vacationing. “We hope everyone had a fun and relaxing summer! Greek school starts Saturday, September 24th from 10 am – 12:15 pm. (Greek School, of course, has begun, as this issue of the Herald went to press.) Greek school meets every Saturday morning (excluding some Saturdays for holidays). If you are interested in enrolling your child to our program, please contact Anthi Janssens for more information including registration form and annual school calendar at anthigj@gmail.com or at 415-254-5458. We look forward to welcoming back returning and new families!”
Serving in the Altar

Serving in the altar is a wonderful way for our young people to participate in the worship of our church, and learn more about our faith. For the present school year, we are very pleased to announce the altar leaders program! This year, three of the older altar servers have taken on the responsibility of coordinating the groups during services each week. We hope to add several more to their ranks in the coming years!

If any families are interested in their boys joining an altar group, who are above the age of 10, feel free to contact Father Stephen at fatherstephen@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!

Our altar schedule for August is as follows:

October 2  –  Group 1 (Bishop Apostolos Celebrating)
October 9  –  Group 2
October 16 –  Group 3
October 23 –  Group 4 (Parish Assembly Following)
October 30 - Group 1 (Parish Assembly Following)

Our altar groups are as follow:

Group 1- Stelios Kyriacou, Kosta Lyberopoulos, Andrew Vellis, George Tsokas, Victor Nicolacakis, Justin Perez, Christian Kleinekorte (Dimitri Kontonis- Group Leader)
Group 2- Christopher Apostolos Percia, Panagiotis Sogotis, Yianni Sogotis, Steven Monolakis, (Niko Manetas- Group Leader)
Group 3- Niko Pezo, Demetri Rally, Steven Chiappari, Gianni Kefalas, Nicholas Shatara (Demetri Kontonis- Group Leader)
Group 4- Nathan Tesfai, Bobby Kontonis, Hari Manetas, Alexander Kasolas, Matthew Nuris (Jonas Tesfai- Group Leader)

Don’t see your name here? Would you like to join us? We would like you to. Report for altar duty any Sunday morning, prior to 10:30 a.m., and Nektarios will make the appropriate arrangements. Meanwhile, it is also imperative that you attend Sunday School.

SACRAMENTS

Baptisms
Athena Fotini, daughter of ReedFielding Moulds and Aleena Kalioppe Paras-Kopecky Moulds, was baptized at the Cathedral on September 10. Her Sponsor is Aaron Paras-Kopecky.

Na Mas Zisi! Long Life!

Chriismation
Mari Takaoka Moulinos was received into the Church through the Sacrament of Chrismation on August 7. Her sponsor is Vasiliki Tzafopoulous.

Na mas zisi!  Long life!

Weddings
Na Mas Zisoun! Long Life!

Funerals
Athena Tsougarakis, who fell asleep in the Lord on September 9, was buried September 15. She is survived by sisters-in-law Billie Salevouris and Mary Tsougarakis, and their children.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

Condolences
The Cathedral extends condolences to parishioners Dora Gavros and George Papavasiliou, whose fathers, Angelo Koros and Soterios Papavasiliou, who recently fell asleep in the Lord and were buried in San Diego and in Los Angeles, respectively.

Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!
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<th>SUNDAY</th>
<th>MONDAY</th>
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<td>Orthros, 9 am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Dance Practice 12 noon</td>
<td>Bishop Apostolos Celebrating</td>
<td>7 pm., Volleyball</td>
<td>7 p.m., Basketball practice</td>
<td>Greek School, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Orthros, 9 am</td>
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<td>Dance Practice 12 noon</td>
<td>5 year Memorial: Kaliop Fotenos Board of Auditors</td>
<td>7 pm., Volleyball</td>
<td>7 p.m. Basketball practice</td>
<td>Greek School, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Orthros, 9 am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Dance Practice 12 noon</td>
<td>Parish Council, 12:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Soup/Community Kitchen, 6:30 pm</td>
<td>7 p.m. Basketball practice</td>
<td>Greek School, 10 a.m.</td>
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<td>Orthros, 9 am</td>
<td>Divine Liturgy, 10:30 am</td>
<td>Dance Practice 12 noon</td>
<td>Parish Assembly</td>
<td>7 pm., Volleyball</td>
<td>7 p.m. Basketball practice</td>
<td>Greek School, 10 a.m.</td>
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“I will be their God, and they shall be My people.” – Leviticus 26:12