ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Sunday Bulletin – December 21, 2025

Hymns of the Day - Υμνολογία

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the 3rd Tone
Let the Heavens rejoice; let earthly things be glad; for the Lord hath wrought might with His arm, He hath trampled upon death by death. The first-born of the dead hath He become. From the belly of Hades hath He delivered us, and hath granted great mercy to the world.

Εὐφραινέσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος, ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ, ὁ Κύριος, ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας ᾅδου ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς, καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of the Nativity in the 4th Tone
Be thou ready, Bethlehem, Eden hath opened unto all. Ephratha, prepare thyself, for now, behold, the Tree of life hath blossomed forth in the cave from the Holy Virgin. Her womb hath proved a true spiritual Paradise, wherein the divine and saving Tree is found, and as we eat thereof we shall all live, and shall not die as did Adam. For Christ is born now to raise the image that had fallen aforetime.

Ετοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, ήνοικται πάσιν η Εδέμ, Ευτρεπίζου Εφραθά, ότι τό ξύλον τής ζωής, εν τώ Σπηλαίω εξήνθησεν εκ τής Παρθένου, Παράδεισος καί γάρ, η εκείνης γαστήρ, εδείχθη νοητός, εν ώ τό θείον φυτόν, εξ ού φαγόντες ζήσομεν, ουχί δέ ως ο Αδάμ τεθνηξόμεθα, Χριστός γεννάται, τήν πρίν πεσούσαν, αναστήσων εικόνα.

Apolytikion for Sun. before Nativity in the 2nd Tone
Great are the achievements of faith! In the fountain of flame, as by the water of rest, the Three Holy Children rejoiced. And the Prophet Daniel proved a shepherd of lions as of sheep. By their prayers, O Christ our God, save our souls.

Μεγάλα τὰ τῆς πίστεως κατορθώματα! ἐν τῇ πηγὴ τῆς φλογός, ὡς ἐπὶ ὕδατος ἀναπαύσεως, οἱ ἅγιοι τρεῖς παῖδες ἠγάλλοντο, καὶ ὁ Προφήτης Δανιήλ, λεόντων ποιμήν, ὡς προβάτων ἐδείκνυτο, Ταὶς αὐτῶν ἱκεσίαις, Χριστὲ ὁ Θεός, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς.

Apolytikion for the Church Annunciation in the 4th Tone
Today is the summary of our salvation, and the revelation of the age-old mystery. For the Son of God becomes the Son of the Virgin, and Gabriel announces the good news of grace.

Therefore, let us join him, and cry aloud to the Theotokos: "Rejoice, Maiden full of grace,! the Lord is with you."

Σήμερον της σωτηρίας ημών το κεφάλαιον, και του απ'αιώνος μυστηρίου η φανέρωσις, ο Υιός του Θεού, Υιός της Παρθένου γίνεται, και Γαβριήλ την χάριν ευαγγελίζεται. Διό και ημείς συν αυτώ τη Θεοτόκω βοήσωμεν: Χαίρε Κεχαριτωμένη, ο Κύριος μετά σου.

Seasonal Kontakion in the 3rd Tone
On this day the Virgin cometh to the cave to give birth to * God the Word ineffably, * Who was before all the ages. * Dance for joy, O earth, on hearing * the gladsome tidings; * with the Angels and the shepherds now glorify Him * Who is willing to be gazed on * as a young Child Who * before the ages is God.

Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, τὸν Προαιώνιον Λόγον, ἐν Σπηλαίῳ ἔρχεται, ἀποτεκεῖν ἀπορρήτως. Χόρευε ἡ οἰκουμένη ἀκουτισθεῖσα, δόξασον μετὰ Ἀγγέλων καὶ τῶν Ποιμένων, βουληθέντα ἐποφθῆναι, παιδίον νέον, τὸν πρὸ αἰώνων Θεόν.

Gospel and Epistle - Αναγνώσματα

Epistle Readings

Prokeimenon. 4th Tone. Daniel 3.26,27.
Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers.
Verse: For you are just in all you have done.

The reading is from St. Paul's Letter to the Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40.

BRETHREN, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundation, whose builder and maker is God.

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets - who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated - of whom the world was not worthy - wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.

And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

Προκείμενον. 4th Tone. Δανιήλ 3.26-27.
Εὐλογητὸς εἶ, Κύριε, ὁ Θεὸς τῶν Πατέρων ἡμῶν.
Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Ἑβραίους 11:9-10, 32-40.

Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρῴκησεν Ἀβραὰμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ ᾽Ισαὰκ καὶ ᾽Ιακὼβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείψει γάρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψὼν καὶ ᾽Ιεφθάε, Δαυΐδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἳ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πεῖραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιῆλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὀπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρεῖττόν τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

Gospel Readings

Sunday before Nativity

Matthew 1:1-25

The book of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Amminadab, and Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amon, and

Amon the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ.

So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

Κατὰ Ματθαῖον 1:1-25

Βίβλος γενέσεως ᾽Ιησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ Δαυῒδ υἱοῦ ᾽Αβραάμ. ᾽Αβραὰμ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ισαάκ, ᾽Ισαὰκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιακώβ, ᾽Ιακὼβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιούδαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ, ᾽Ιούδας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Φαρὲς καὶ τὸν Ζαρὰ ἐκ τῆς Θάμαρ, Φαρὲς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Εσρώμ, ᾽Εσρὼμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Αράμ, ᾽Αρὰμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Αμιναδάβ, ᾽Αμιναδὰβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ναασσών, Ναασσὼν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλμών, Σαλμὼν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Βοὸζ ἐκ τῆς ῾Ραχάβ, Βοὸζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ωβὴδ ἐκ τῆς ῾Ρούθ, ᾽Ωβὴδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιεσσαί, ᾽Ιεσσαὶ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Δαυῒδ τὸν βασιλέα. Δαυῒδ δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐγέννησε τὸν Σολομῶνα ἐκ τῆς τοῦ Οὐρίου, Σολομὼν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ῾Ροβοάμ, ῾Ροβοὰμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Αβιά, ᾽Αβιὰ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ασά, ᾽Ασὰ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιωσαφάτ, ᾽Ιωσαφὰτ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιωράμ, ᾽Ιωρὰμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Οζίαν, ᾽Οζίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιωάθαμ, ᾽Ιωάθαμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ῎Αχαζ, ῎Αχαζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Εζεκίαν, ᾽Εζεκίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Μανασσῆ, Μανασσῆς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Αμών, ᾽Αμὼν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιωσίαν, ᾽Ιωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν ᾽Ιεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος.

Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν Βαβυλῶνος Ἰεχονίας ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλαθιήλ, Σαλαθιὴλ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ζοροβάβελ, Ζοροβάβελ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιούδ, Ἀβιοὺδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιακείμ, Ἐλιακεὶμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἄζώρ, Ἄζὼρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαδώκ, Σαδὼκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχείμ, Ἀχεὶμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιούδ, Ἐλιοὺδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλεάζαρ, Ἐλεάζαρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ματθάν, Ματθὰν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακὼβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσὴφ τὸν ἄνδρα Μαρίας, ἐξ ἧς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός. Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ Ἀβραὰμ ἕως Δαυὶδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυὶδ ἕως τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος ἕως τοῦ Χριστοῦ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες.

Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡ γέννησις οὕτως ἦν. μνηστευθείσης γὰρ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας τῷ Ἰωσήφ, πρὶν ἢ συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εὑρέθη ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου. Ἰωσὴφ δὲ ὁ ἀνὴρ αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὢν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν παραδειγματίσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρα ἀπολῦσαι αὐτήν. ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ᾽ ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων· Ἰωσὴφ υἱὸς Δαυίδ, μὴ φοβηθῇς παραλαβεῖν Μαριὰμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου· τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ Πνεύματός ἐστιν Ἁγίου. τέξεται δὲ υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν· αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. Τοῦτο δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἕξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσι τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ, ὅ ἐστι μεθερμηνευόμενον μεθ᾽ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Διεγερθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσὴφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ ἄγγελος Κυρίου καὶ παρέλαβε τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτὴν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον, καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

Saints and Feasts - Εορτές

Sunday before Nativity

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children.

Wisdom of the Fathers - Σοφία των Πατέρων

Pray, my brethren, to the Mother of God when the storm of enmity and malice bursts forth in your house. She, Who is all-merciful and all-powerful, can easily pacify the hearts of men. Peace and love proceed from the one God, as from their Source, and Our Lady - in God, as the Mother of Christ the Peace, is zealous, and prays for the peace of the whole world, and above all - of all Christians. -***St. John of Kronstadt***

Announcements - Ανακοινώσεις

Stewardship Sunday: "What shall I give to the Lord in return for all his goodness towards me?" Psalm 116:12. Today we celebrate Stewardship Sunday and the kickoff of our 2026 Stewardship campaign with a new package including wins in 2025, goals in 2026, and thoughts on giving from your heart when pledging. Join us after Liturgy in the hall and stop by the Stewardship table where help will be available to get you set up with Realm.

Today's Coffee Hour is being hosted by the Annunciation Cathedral Parish Council, in celebration of the holiday season.

Services This Week: Tuesday, December 23, Great and Holy Hours (5:00 PM), Christmas Eve Vesperal Divine Liturgy (6:00 PM); Thursday, December 25, Nativity Divine Liturgy (Orthros 8:30 AM, Divine Liturgy 9:45 AM); Saturday, December 27th (Holy Confessions 3:00 PM, Great Vespers 4:00 PM).

Building Fund Match Challenge: As we celebrate the Nativity of our Lord, we rejoice in Christ's humility, love, and hope that unite us as one family in faith. Through the generosity of a faithful donor family, the Cathedral has received a $100,000 Building Fund Match, and we are now very close to fully unlocking this gift. Every dollar given is matched dollar-for-dollar. In these final days of the year, we invite you to help us meet and exceed the match, strengthening our Cathedral for generations to come. Donations may be made at www.annunciation.org/match or by mailing a check to the Cathedral.

Holiday Food Drive for SF-Marin Food Bank: We are collecting shelf-stable food donations to support the SF-Marin Food Bank from December 21 through January 3. A donation bin will be available at the Cathedral. Most needed items include canned proteins with pop-top lids, low-sodium soups, chili or stews, nut butters, pasta, rice, and low-sugar cereals. Thank you for helping support families in our local community during the holiday season.

Godparents Sunday & FDF Preview Luncheon: Join the Annunciation Cathedral Dance Program on Sunday, January 25 for Godparents Sunday and our FDF Preview Luncheon. Godparents and godchildren are invited to attend Divine Liturgy and receive Holy Communion together, reaffirming their spiritual bond in Christ. Tickets will be sold after church today and online at www.annunciation.org/god-parents-day. Raffle tickets will also be available for purchase to support Bay Area Greek Dance ministries in collaboration with our neighboring parishes.

Blessing of the Waters 2026: The annual Blessing of the Waters, sponsored by the United Hellenic American Societies of California, will take place on January 11, 2026 at Aquatic Park. This beautiful Epiphany tradition commemorates the Baptism of our Lord and the sanctification of all creation. Clergy and faithful from across the Bay Area are invited to participate in this meaningful and time-honored celebration. Details are available at www.uhasca.org.

44th Annual Philoptochos Crab Feed: The Ladies Philoptochos presents its Annual Crab Feed on Friday, January 30, 2026. Join us for an all-inclusive meal of Salad, Garlic Bread, Wine, Pasta, Crab, and Dessert. Early bird pricing is available through December 31st: $90/adult and $45/child 12 and under. Visit our table in the hall after Liturgy to reserve your tickets or purchase your tickets online at www.annunciation.org/crab-feed. Contact Maria Manetas at crabfeed@annunciation.org for more details.

House Blessings: Following the Great Feast of Theophany on January 6, Father Constantinos will offer the traditional blessing of homes with Holy Water. Through this pastoral visit, we pray that God will grant peace, health, protection, and a renewal of His grace in the New Year. All homes and apartments are welcome. To schedule your house blessing, please contact Niko Makarios at niko.makarios@annunciation.org.

Community Kitchen: Let us come together to prepare, serve, and share a hot meal with those in our neighborhood. The next gathering of Community Kitchen will be on Tuesday January 20th. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at www.annunciation.org/ck-signup. To support this important ministry by making a financial donation, please visit www.annunciation.org/ck-donate

Men's Fellowship: Please join us for our next Men's Fellowship gathering on Thursday, January 15, 2026. Social hour begins at 6:30 PM, dinner and program follow at 7:00 PM. These meetings provide an excellent opportunity for us to reconnect with our friends, our community, and our faith. If you plan to attend our next gathering, please email Jim Rakos at jim.rakos@annunciation.org to RSVP.

An Invitation To Host Coffee Hour: As part of our revitalized coffee hour program, we're calling on all ministries, organizations, and our parishioners (individually or in teams!) to sign up to host one or more coffee hours throughout the year. We'll supply the coffee/ cream/ sugar, tablecloths, napkins, utensils – and you supply the goodies (pastries, donuts, bagels, small sandwiches, fruit/ vegetable/ cheese platters or other similar items). We are currently seeking hosts for Sunday, December 28, please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

Digital Chant Stand for Today’s Services: