ANNUNCIATION CATHEDRAL

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

Sunday Bulletin – January 4, 2026

Hymns of the Day - Υμνολογία

Resurrectional Apolytikion in the Plagal 1st Tone
Let us worship the Word, O ye faithful, praising Him that with the Father and the Spirit is co-beginningless God, Who was born of a pure Virgin that we all be saved; for He was pleased to mount the Cross in the flesh that He assumed, accepting thus to endure death. And by His glorious rising, He also willed to resurrect the dead.

Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον Πατρὶ καὶ Πνεύματι, τὸν ἐκ Παρθένου τεχθέντα εἰς σωτηρίαν ἡμῶν, ἀνυμνήσωμεν πιστοὶ καὶ προσκυνήσωμεν, ὅτι ηὐδόκησε σαρκί, ἀνελθεῖν ἐν τῷ σταυρῷ, καὶ θάνατον ὑπομεῖναι, καὶ ἐγεῖραι τοὺς τεθνεῶτας, ἐν τῇ ἐνδόξῳ Ἀναστάσει αὐτοῦ.

Apolytikion for Forefeast of Theophany in the 4th Tone
Be thou ready, Zabulon; prepare thyself, O Nephthalim. River Jordan, stay thy course and skip for gladness to receive the Sovereign Master, Who cometh now to be baptized. O Adam, be thou glad with our first mother, Eve; hide not as ye did of old in Paradise. Seeing you naked, He hath appeared now to clothe you in the first robe again. Christ hath appeared, for He truly willeth to renew all creation.

Ἑτοιμάζου Ζαβουλών, καὶ εὐτρεπίζου Νεφθαλείμ. Ἰορδάνη ποταμέ, στήθι ὑπόδεξαι σκιρτῶν, τοῦ βαπτισθῆναι ἐρχόμενον τὸν Δεσπότην. Ἀγάλλου ὁ Ἀδὰμ σὺν τὴ Προμήτορι, μὴ κρύπτετε ἑαυτούς, ὡς ἐν Παραδείσῳ τὸ πρίν, καὶ γὰρ γυμνοὺς ἰδὼν ὑμᾶς ἐπέφανεν, ἵνα ἐνδύσῃ τὴν πρώτην στολήν, Χριστὸς ἐφάνη, τὴν πᾶσαν κτίσιν, θέλων ἀνακαινίσαι.

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 4th Tone
In the running waters of the Jordan River, on this day the Lord of all crieth to John: Be not afraid and hesitate not to baptize Me, for I am come to save Adam, the first-formed man.

Ἐν τοῖς ῥείθροις σήμερον τοῦ Ἰορδάνου, γεγονῶς ὁ Κύριος, τῷ Ἰωάννῃ ἐκβοᾷ. Μὴ δειλιάσῃς βαπτίσαι με, σῶσαι γὰρ ἥκω, Ἀδὰμ τὸν πρωτόπλαστον.

Gospel and Epistle - Αναγνώσματα

Epistle Readings

Prokeimenon. Plagal 2nd Tone. Psalm 27.9,1.
O Lord, save your people and bless your inheritance.
Verse: To you, O Lord, I have cried, O my God.

The reading is from St. Paul's Second Letter to Timothy 4:5-8.

Timothy, my son, always be steady, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfil your ministry.

For I am already on the point of being sacrificed; the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Προκείμενον. Plagal 2nd Tone. ΨΑΛΜΟΙ 27.9,1.
Σῶσον, Κύριε τὸν λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.
Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι ὁ Θεός μου.

τὸ Ἀνάγνωσμα Πρὸς Τιμόθεον β' 4:5-8.

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν πᾶσιν, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον ποίησον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν διακονίαν σου πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκεν. Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν τετήρηκα· λοιπόν, ἀπόκειταί μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ δίκαιος κριτής· οὐ μόνον δὲ ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πάσιν τοῖς ἠγαπηκόσιν τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν αὐτοῦ.

Gospel Readings

Sunday before Epiphany

Mark 1:1-8
The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophets, 'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who shall prepare your way; the voice of one crying in the wilderness: prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.' John was baptizing in the wilderness, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And there went out to him all the country of Judea, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, and had a leather girdle around his waist, and ate locusts and wild honey. And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Κατὰ Μᾶρκον 1:1-8
᾽Αρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ᾽Ιησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. ῾Ως γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδόν σου ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἑτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο ᾽Ιωάννης βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ ᾽Ιουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ ῾Ιεροσολυμῖται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο πάντες ἐν τῷ ᾽Ιορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ᾽ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. ῏Ην δὲ ὁ ᾽Ιωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφὺν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ· ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι ῾Αγίῳ.

Saints and Feasts - Εορτές

Synaxis of the 70 Apostles

The Seventy Disciples and Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ are those Whom our Saviour chose in addition to the Twelve and sent forth unto the work of preaching. With the passage of time, others were added to their number by the Holy Apostles, who, with the accompaniment and assistance of the Seventy, were preaching the Gospel of Christ in various lands. Although their number eventually exceeded seventy, they were all nonetheless referred to as "of the Seventy" out of reverence for the number of Apostles which the Lord chose.

The divine Apostle and Evangelist Luke describes the calling and the sending forth of the Seventy as follows in his Holy Gospel (Luke 10:1-16): "After these things the Lord appointed another seventy disciples, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place, whither He Himself would come. Therefore said He unto them, the harvest is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth labourers into His harvest. Go then: behold, I send you forth as lambs in the midst of wolves. Carry neither purse, nor bag, nor sandals: and greet no man on the way. And into whatsoever house ye enter first say, Peace be on this house. And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it; if not, it shall turn to you again. And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. And into whatsoever city you enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you; And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you not, go your ways out into the streets of the same, and say, Even the very dust of your city, which cleaveeth on us, we do wipe off against you: notwithstanding know ye this, that the Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you. But I say unto you, that it shall be more tolerable in that day for Sodom, than for that city. Woe unto thee, Chorazin! woe unto thee, Bethsaida! for if the mighty works had been done in Tyre and Sidon, which have been done in you, they had a great while ago repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it shall be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted to heaven, shalt be brought down to hades. He that heareth you heareth Me; and he that despiseth you despiseth Me; and he that despiseth Me despiseth Him that sent Me."

After the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord, and after Pentecost, on which all the Apostles and men and women disciples of Christ, together with the Most Holy Theotokos (some 120 in number), were gathered in the upper chamber, they received the grace of the All-holy Spirit and went forth throughout the ends of the world, everywhere preaching and teaching the Gospel of Christ, and leading to the true Faith the peoples who were sunk in the darkness of impiety and idolatry.

Wisdom of the Fathers - Σοφία των Πατέρων

Repentance is the renewal of baptism and is a contract with God for a fresh start in life.
-St. John Climacus

It was for that reason that Joshua, son of Nun, removed his sandals (Cf. Jos. 5:15), in order that he also could preserve the gift of so great a function for Him who was to come. It is for that reason that John says, 'A man is coming after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to loose,'
-St. Ambrose of Milan

Announcements - Ανακοινώσεις

Memorial Service: Today's Memorial Service is being offered for the repose of the soul of John Eliopoulos (5 years). Αίωνία η μνήμη! May his memory be eternal.

Vasilopita Brunch: Join us after services today for a complimentary buffet brunch and Vasilopta hosted by the Annunciation Cathedral. Desserts are being hosted by the family of John Eliopoulos in loving memory.

Services This Week: Tuesday, January 6th: Feast of the Theophany, Blessing of the Waters (Orthros 9:00 AM, Blessing of the Waters 10:00 AM, Divine Liturgy 10:30 AM); Wednesday, January 7th: Synaxis of John the Baptist (Divine Liturgy 6:00 PM); Saturday, January 10th: (Holy Confessions 3:00 PM, Great Vespers 4:00 PM).

Philoptochos Membership Month: Help us kick off Philoptochos Membership Month! Join us following services on January 11th for a "Mimosas and Mocktails" social. Come learn how your membership supports our many vital ministries and makes a difference in our community. Whether you are renewing or joining for the first time, we look forward to your fellowship and support. Together, we can do great things!

Stewardship: Our 2026 Stewardship journey has begun, and we invite every parishioner to prayerfully offer their time, talents, and treasure in support of Annunciation Cathedral. Stewardship packets have been mailed and include ministry listings, FAQs, suggested offerings, and commitment cards. These pledges help the Parish Council plan our budget and guide future ministry discussions. We kindly ask that commitments be submitted by January 31, 2026. A new year brings great hope and joy as our Cathedral continues to grow!

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.

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.

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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.

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. 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.

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 January 20. If you would like to volunteer, please sign up at www.annunciation.org/ck-signup. If you would like to support this important ministry, please consider making a financial donation at www.annunciation.org/ck-donate

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.

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 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). Please reach out to Irene Melitas (irene.melitas@annunciation.org, or 925.212.8561) to sign-up and learn more.

Chant Stand for Today’s Services: