

EPISTLE READING: This morning's Apostolic reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, Chapter 4, Verses 22-47: Brethren, Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, the son of the free woman through promise. Now this is an allegory: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and shout, you who are not in travail; for the children of the desolate one are many more than the children of her that is married."

Ὁ Απόστολος, Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 4, ἐδάφ. 22-47: Ἀδελφοί, Ἀβραάμ δύο υἱοὺς ἔσχεν· ἓνα ἐκ τῆς παιδίσκης, καὶ ἓνα ἐκ τῆς ἐλευθέρας. Ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἐκ τῆς παιδίσκης κατὰ σάρκα γεγέννηται, ὁ δὲ ἐκ τῆς ἐλευθέρας διὰ τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. Ἄτινά ἐστιν ἀλληγορούμενα· αὐταὶ γὰρ εἰσὶν δύο διαθήκαι· μία μὲν ἀπὸ ὄρους Σινᾶ, εἰς δουλείαν γεννώσα, ἣτις ἐστὶν Ἄγαρ. Τὸ γὰρ Ἄγαρ Σινᾶ ὄρος ἐστὶν ἐν τῇ Ἀραβίᾳ, συστοιχεῖ δὲ τῇ νῦν Ἱερουσαλήμ, δουλεύει δὲ μετὰ τῶν τέκνων αὐτῆς. Ἡ δὲ ἄνω Ἱερουσαλήμ ἐλευθέρη ἐστίν, ἣτις ἐστὶν μήτηρ πάντων ἡμῶν· γέγραπται γὰρ, Εὐφράνητι, στείρα, ἢ οὐ τίκτουςα· ῥῆξον καὶ βόησον, ἢ οὐκ ᾠδίνουσα· ὅτι πολλὰ τὰ τέκνα τῆς ἐρήμου μάλλον ἢ τῆς ἐχούσης τὸν ἄνδρα.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 8, Verses 8:16-21. It is found in our books on pages 261-263.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν, κεφ. 8, ἐδάφ. 16-21, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 260-262.

Today's Apolytikion (Dismissal Hymn) is that of Tone Three:

Let all things above in heaven rejoice, and let all things below on earth be glad. With all the might and strength of His arm, an eternal deed the Lord did perform. Beneath His feet, He has trampled down death by death, and first-born of the dead has He become. From the depths of Hades has He delivered us, and to all the world has granted His great redeeming mercy.

Εὐφραίνεσθω τὰ οὐράνια, ἀγαλλιᾶσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιτίας Ἰδοῦ ἐρρύσατο ἡμᾶς καὶ παρέσχε τῷ κόσμῳ τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

THE LORD'S PRAYER IN SPANISH: Padre nuestro, que estás en los cielos, santificado sea tu nombre, venga tu Reino, hágase tu voluntad en la tierra como en el cielo; danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día; perdona nuestras deudas así como nosotros perdonamos a nuestros deudores; no nos dejes caer en la tentación, y líbranos del Mal.

INTRODUCTION TO ORTHODOXY: This 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. It is also open to people who are already Orthodox and who would like to deepen their understanding of their faith. We explore Christian theology and practice by reading selections from 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) why we belong in the Church. If you are interested in attending the class, please contact **Alexandros Kozák** at orthodoxy-agkozak@sneakemail.com. **Note:** The Introduction to Orthodoxy class is now being offered two Sundays a month. It meets in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 9 a.m. The class is meeting this morning. The group will meet next Sunday, December 16.

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNON: This morning's memorial service is being offered for the repose of the soul of our brother **Ilias Frangos**, who fell asleep in the Lord one year ago. Aionia I Mnimi! Eternal Memory!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM NEXT SUNDAY: Next Sunday, following the Divine Liturgy, our Sunday School will offer its Christmas program. The program will take place in lieu of a sermon.

PHILOTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PASTRY SALE: In case you missed it in the November Herald, you may pick up an order form at the Pangari. This special pastry sale will help raise funds for the charities and ministries of the Philoptochos. Order today, and pick up your goods next Sunday, December 16. For those able to volunteer to bake, the baking and packaging of the baked goods will take place this Wednesday and Thursday, December 12 and 13, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please see Janis Petrou, our Philoptochos president, for details.

DANCE PRACTICE: Dance practice will take place today, at 12 noon, and also on Saturday, December 15, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

ELEMENTARY/ MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL: Basketball Practice will take place this week, on Wednesday, December 12 and on Thursday, December 13, beginning at 7 p.m.

GREEK SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY: The party will take place this Saturday, December 15, at the end of class.

PARKING: Until our parking component is up and running (following final inspections and the engagement of a third-party operator, in accordance with the terms of our conditional use permit) the valet will park our cars. We simply drop off and pick up our cars at the entrance. We do not go down into the garage ourselves. For this service, we will pay \$5 per car, to cover the cost of the attendants. The Cathedral will no longer subsidize parking in the lot behind the Cathedral.

ELEVEN (11) RUNNING FOR PARISH COUNCIL: The following individuals are running for Parish Council. Their names were either placed in nomination at the October 28, 2018 Parish Assembly, or else they are self-declared. The eleven are: **George Ambadiotakis Ambus, D.D.S., Peter (Panagiotis) Cazanis, Alexandros Kozak, Christopher Kyriacou, Esq., John Lampros, Vassiliki Moulas, Dean Nicolacakis, Manoli Nuris, James (Jim) Rakos, Christopher (Chris) Ramos**, and **Nick Rally**. There are seven places on the Parish Council, for a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2019. Parish Council elections will take place next Sunday, December 16.

SUPPORT YOUR CHURCH THROUGH STEWARDSHIP: Recently, you received a packet containing a Stewardship pledge card for 2019, a return envelope, and a brochure with additional information about Stewardship. Please make your support for 2019 a priority, by completing and returning your 2019 Stewardship pledge card prior to December 31st of the present year. We can't thank you enough for your continued support, nor can we stress how important your participation is, as a member of the Annunciation Cathedral family. Your Stewardship support makes possible the very existence of this parish, and its ability to offer Liturgical services, educational, & philanthropic programs.

VASILOPITA/CRAB FEED: Though it's only November, our parish Vasilopita and also the Crab Feed, both sponsored by our Cathedral Ladies Philoptochos, are just around the corner. The Vasilopita will take place Sunday, January 6 (on Holy Theophany), while the Crab Feed will take place Friday, January 25.

DON'T YOU JUST LOVE THE COURTYARD? We utilized the courtyard for the first time during this year's Festival. When everything was picked up, we noticed the grime all over the courtyard. However, the pavers were all cleaned immediately afterwards, in preparation for other outdoor events, like our recent Young Adults dinner. We have a little way to go to wind down this phase of construction: the fountain, gates, doors, etc.) This takes time, especially in this challenging building climate. Let's stay positive. Consider what you have accomplished so far. As with Moses, we hear God speaking to us: **"Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you."** (from the Septuagint: *Και ποιήσεις μοι ἁγίασμα, και ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). This takes vision; it also takes determination and faith. You are doing something extraordinary: you are building His sanctuary, a sacred space, right the heart of one of the world's premier cities. Here, the Orthodox Christian faith is poised to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation to a whole new generation of worshippers!



"The Church shall be a home for Orthodox Christians from every ethnic and national background. It shall be a house of prayer for all humankind, in which the Holy Name of our Triune God shall be extolled and all of creation sanctified."