

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

ELEVENTH SUNDAY OF ST. LUKE

THE PROPHET HAGGAI; THE EMPRESS THEOPHANA

EPISTLE READING: This morning's Apostolic reading is from St. Paul's letter to the Colossians, Chapter 3, Verses 4-11. It is found in our books, on page 129.

Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Κολοσσαεῖς Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 3 ἐδάφ. 4-11:

Ἀδελφοί, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς φανερωθῆ, ἡ ζωὴ ἡμῶν, τότε καὶ ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη ὑμῶν τὰ ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν, πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακίην, καὶ τὴν πλεονεξίαν, ἣτις ἐστὶν εἰδωλολατρεία, δι' ἣ ἐρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ τοῦ θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς ἀπειθείας· Ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς περιπατήσατέ ποτε, ὅτε ἐζήτε ἐν αὐτοῖς. Νυνὶ δὲ ἀπόθεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς τὰ πάντα, ὀργὴν, θυμὸν, κακίαν, βλασφημίαν, αἰσχρολογία ἐκ τοῦ στόματος ὑμῶν· μὴ ψεύδεσθε εἰς ἀλλήλους, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν νέον, τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ κτίσαντος αὐτόν· ὅπου οὐκ ἔστι Ἕλληνας καὶ Ἰουδαῖος, περιτομὴ καὶ ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης, δούλος, ἐλεύθερος· ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα καὶ ἐν πᾶσιν Χριστός.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, Chapter 14, Verses 16-24 It is found in our books on pages 263-265.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ, ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Λουκᾶν Ἁγίου Εὐαγγελίου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 14, ἐδάφ. 16-24, εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 262-264.

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.

COMMUNITY KITCHEN/YOUNG ADULT GATHERING THIS TUESDAY: Community Kitchen will take place this coming Tuesday, December 18. Community Kitchen is a feeding program, headed by the Cathedral's Young Adults. Some 100 individuals are served. However, you don't have to be a Young Adult in order to volunteer to set up or to serve. We just learned that one of our middle schoolers and about 10 classmates will be on hand to help. Set-up begins at 5 pm. We begin serving at 6:30 p.m. Following cleanup, our Young Adults convene in the conference room for wine 'n cheese, and discussion.

TODAY'S MNEMOSYNA: This morning's memorial services are being offered for the repose of the soul of: **Michalis Siouris** (52 years); **Angeliki Siouris** (56 years), **Panagiota Siouris** (12 years), **Alex Tripp** (1 year), and **Mary Pappas** (6 months). *Aionia I Mnimi!* Eternal Memory!

40 DAY BLESSING: This morning we welcome 40 day old **Eleni**, daughter of **Sila** and **Jimmy Consos**. *Na Mas Zisi!* Long Life!

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM TODAY: Following this morning's Divine Liturgy (as well as the Memorials and the 40-day Blessing), our Sunday School will offer its Christmas program. The program will take place in lieu of a sermon. Our Greek School held its Christmas program yesterday, at the conclusion of the day's lessons.

PARISH COUNCIL ELECTIONS TODAY: The following individuals are running for Parish Council. **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.** Seven of these will be elected to serve a two-year term, beginning January 1, 2019.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING TODAY: The meeting will take place in the conference room, at 12:30 p.m.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PASTRY SALE: Your pastry orders are ready to be picked up today. Today's special pastry sale helps raise funds for the charities and ministries of the Philoptochos. We thank the Ladies Philoptochos for their efforts and also extend best wishes and prayers to our President, **Janis Petrou**, as she recovers from surgery.

DANCE PRACTICE: Dance practice will take place today, beginning at 12 noon, and also on Saturday, December 22, beginning at 10:30 a.m. **ELEMENTARY/ MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL:** Basketball Practice will take place this week on Wednesday, December 19 and on Thursday, December 20, beginning at 7 p.m.

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.

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: 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.

WHAT NEXT? As you can see, we're winding down Phase 1 of construction. We have a little way to go, however, in order to complete the fountain, the gates along Valencia Street, the exterior doors, etc. This takes time, especially in this challenging building climate and, of course, money. In order to complete these tasks and begin working on Phase 2 (the interior), we will need to embark upon a renewed Capital Campaign. (More about this in the New Year). Let's stay positive and focused. 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: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν*). (Exodus 25:8). This also takes vision, 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."