

**EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verses 9-10, 32-40. It is found in our books on pages 150-151.

**Ὁ Ἀπόστολος, Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 11, ἐδάφ. 9-10, 32-40:** Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρώκισεν Ἀβραάμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἀλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοῦ θεμελίου ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἐτι λέγω; Ἐπιλείπει γὰρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψών καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβησαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοῦ νεκροῦ αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιός ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄποις τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψάμενου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελεωθῶσι.

**GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY:** This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 11, Verses 1-25. It is found in our books on pages 311-317.

**Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 1-25. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 310-317.**

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

When You descended to the realm of death, You as life immortal rendered to Hades a mortal blow by Your all-radiant Divinity. And, when You, from infernal depths and the darkness below did raise the dead, all the hosts of heaven's powers did proclaim and cry out: O life-giving Christ and our God, we give glory [to You].

Ὅτε κατήλθες πρὸς τὸν θάνατον, ἢ ζωὴ ἢ ἀθάνατος, τότε τὸν Ἄδην ἐνέκρωσας τῇ ἀστραπῇ τῆς Θεότητος· ὅτε δὲ καὶ τοὺς τεθνεώτας ἐκ τῶν καταχθονίων ἀνέστησας, πᾶσαι αἱ Δυνάμεις τῶν ἐπουρανίων ἐκραύγαζον· Ζωοδότα, Χριστέ ὁ Θεὸς ἡμῶν, δόξα σοι.

**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](mailto: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.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM:** Following this morning's Divine Liturgy, our Sunday School children will offer their Christmas program. Please join them in the singing of Christmas carols. A light meal will follow.

**SERVICES THIS WEEK:** On Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve), the Great Hours will be celebrated, beginning at 9 a.m. This will be followed by the Vespers Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, at 10 a.m.

On Wednesday, December 25 (the Nativity of Christ), Orthros will begin at 9 a.m., followed by the Divine Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom, at 10:15 a.m. **His Eminence Metropolitan of San Francisco** will be the celebrant. Following the Divine Liturgy, and the singing of Christmas carols, all are invited to join His Eminence in the community center for a light Christmas breakfast.

The Cathedral extends best wishes for a blessed Christmas and a joyous, peaceful New Year.

**CALLING ALL ALTAR SERVERS:** In anticipation of the arrival of His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros, we will be having a brief Altar Boy Training Session for all of our existing Altar Boys as well as any new Altar Boy recruits. We will go over how to serve a Hierarchal Liturgy as well as the basics of serving a standard Divine Liturgy. The training will be led by **Christo Pappademos** and will take place directly following Divine Liturgy on Sunday, January 11th. Please feel free to email Christo if your son would like to serve in the Altar: [christo.pappademos@annunciation.org](mailto:christo.pappademos@annunciation.org)

**NO BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK:** In anticipation of the Christmas holiday, we will not have basketball practice this week. Practice will resume on Thursday, January 2.

**ARCHBISHOP ELPIDOPHOROS TO VISIT CATHEDRAL JAN. 26:** His Eminence Archbishop Elpidophoros of America is coming Sunday, January 26th 2020 for his first visit to our Annunciation Cathedral. A luncheon will follow the 10 am Divine Liturgy (notice the time change for this Liturgy only). As this luncheon is informal, the seating will be open: guests may sit wherever there is room. To ensure that you are seated with your *parea*, the best thing is for you to buy a table (\$300 for a table of 10) and arrange to have whomever you wish seated with you. In this case, your table will be reserved for you, with your name on it. In order to know for how many to prepare, reservations are a must. We cannot accept walk-ins the day of the luncheon. **Angelo Koutoulas** of Chick 'N Coop will be preparing the luncheon.

**ADOPT A PAVER:** As of today, we have 80 pavers "adopted." We are trying to schedule the inscription of the new pavers and a re-do of the old ones over a weekend when no rain is expected, as the paint cannot adhere to wet surfaces.

**STEWARDSHIP:** Your support makes possible the very existence of this parish, and its ability to offer Liturgical services, educational, & philanthropic programs. Please complete and return your card, in the envelope provided, before by December 31. To date, we have received 120 Stewardship pledges. We're a third of the way in meeting our 2020 goal.

**100th ANNIVERSARY:** In 2021, the Cathedral turns 100. We are excited to share with you that our 100th Year Gala Banquet will take place, in 2021, in the grand ballroom of the Fairmont Hotel, San Francisco, in the same place where the original banquet took place to celebrate the creation of the Cathedral 100 years ago!

**CALLING ALL 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE TO A MEETING:** The meeting will take place in the conference room on Sunday, January 12, 2020, following the Divine Liturgy. our centennial celebrations. At the January 12 meeting, we will review a proposal and further define the scope of events to appropriately celebrate this milestone in the life of our community. We are pleased to inform you that **Archon Paul Sogotis** is General Chairman of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, and our **Ladies Philoptochos** will serve as Co-chairs.

**PARKING:** At long last! Our Final Fire and Electrical Inspections took place Tuesday, December 3. We passed inspection! However, the holdup is in the Building Department, which has been asked to grant its approval so that we may take the final step—a hearing at our local Police Department. a permit to operate our parking will be, in effect, issued. The ok by the Police Department will enable us to have the parking component up and running right away. Meanwhile, the upper and lower elevator lobbies have been carpeted, as have the stairs from the garage leading up to the narthex. Any day now, we are waiting for the new Valencia Street gates and the lobby doors. It will be a great day when we finally get the ok for the parking, so that we can go on to address completion of the interior. As we go forward, let’s stay positive and focused. Consider what you have accomplished so far! As with Moses, then, in our day we hear God speaking to us: **“Build me a Sanctuary, and I will appear among you.” (from the Septuagint: Και ποιήσεις μοι ἄγίασμα, καὶ ὀφθήσομαι ἐν ὑμῖν). (Exodus 25:8).** Building also takes vision, determination and faith. You are doing something extraordinary: you are building His sanctuary, a great sacred space, right the heart of one of the world’s premier cities. Here, our Orthodox Christian faith is poised to proclaim the Gospel message of salvation to a whole new generation of worshipers!



*“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.”*