

EPISTLE READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Apostolic Reading is from Saint Paul's Letter to the Galatians, Chapter 1, Verses 11-19. It is found in our books on page 153.

Ὁ Απόστολος, Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα, κεφ. 1, ἐδάφ. 11-19: Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω δὲ ὑμῖν, ἀδελφοί, τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν κατὰ ἄνθρωπον. Οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτό, οὔτε ἐδιδάχην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἠκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ, καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν· καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπαρχῶν τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ Θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ, ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοὶ ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι· οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα ἰστορήσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε. Ἐτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον, εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ κυρίου.

GOSPEL READING OF THE DAY: This morning's Gospel Reading is from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, Chapter 2, Verses 13-23. It is found in our books on pages 317-319.

Ἡ σημερινὴ εὐαγγελικὴ περικοπὴ ἐκ τοῦ κατὰ Ματθαῖον, κεφ. 2, ἐδάφ. 13-23. Εὐρίσκεται εἰς τὰ βιβλία μας, σελ. 316-318.

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, ἀγαλλιάσθω τὰ ἐπίγεια, ὅτι ἐποίησε κράτος ἐν βραχίονι αὐτοῦ ὁ Κύριος· ἐπάτησε τῷ θανάτῳ τὸν θάνατον, πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν ἐγένετο, ἐκ κοιλίας Ἄδου 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. In January, the group will meet Sunday, January 12 and also Sunday, January 19.

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.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY OR GREEK SCHOOL ON SATURDAY: Sunday School will resume Sunday, January 12, while Greek School will resume Saturday, January 4.

SERVICES THIS WEEK: Wednesday, January 1, known as New Year's (because that's when the Roman tax year begins; our Ecclesiastical New Year begins September 1), is also the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great. As it is the 8th day following the Nativity, it is the commemoration of the circumcision of the baby Jesus. The Orthos will be celebrated, beginning at 9 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great, at 10 a.m. St. Basil lived in the 4th century, and served as Bishop of Caesarea, which was located in Cappadocia region Asia Minor. Together with St. Gregory the Theologian and St. John Chrysostom, he is known as one of the Three Hierarchs. In addition to defending Orthodoxy against Arianism, St. Basil was a prolific writer, a paradigmatic theologian, and a founder of monasteries, formulating monastic rules which are still in use today. He was proclaimed a saint soon after his death in 379 AD.

PARISH VASILOPITA/PARISH COUNCIL OATH OF OFFICE/ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS TO TAKE PLACE NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 5: In addition, as it is the Eve of Theophany, The service of the Blessing of the Waters will take place at the conclusion of the Divine Liturgy that day.

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 12th. Please feel free to email Christo if your son would like to serve in the Altar: christo.pappademos@annunciation.org

BASKETBALL PRACTICE THIS WEEK: Because of New Year's Day, basketball practice for Middle School practice will not take place on January 1. Grade School practice will take place this Thursday, January 2, at 7 pm.

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.

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 100th 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 100th 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, which will allow us to begin running our lot per our Conditional Use Permit agreement. The Building Department is insisting we get the final doors and gates in and also sheet rock the other side of the upper lobby so that it satisfies the 1 hour fire rating requirement. 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: *Καὶ ποιήσεις μοι ἅγίασμα, 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."